IRS files tax lien vs Dynasty owner. PAGE 3
Torres extends deadline for absentee voting. PAGE 9

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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75¢

CUSTOMS' BIGGEST CHALLENGE:

UNDETECTED CRIMES

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Spanning a geographical layout of more than 3 million square miles in the Pacific Ocean, it is no wonder that undetected crimes are the biggest challenge facing the Oceania Customs Organization.

The organization has 24 members made up of independent countries and territories that cover 3,291,903 square miles all over the Pacific.

The organization's operations manager, Tevita Tupuo, said that money-laundering activities are among the undetected crimes that are hard to spot. Tupuo was on Saipan last week and facilitated a five-day seminar for CNMI customs officials at Kanoa Resort's Latte Stone room.

"One of the big challenges is the revenue component since financial

See CRIMES on Page 4

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Members of the Saipan Southern High School's MYWAVE Club greet tourists and locals a Happy Halloween as they roamed the streets of Garapan on Oct. 29, 2016. Candied treats were given to visitors along the areas of Paseo de Marianas, Fiesta Resort, Cha, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., and T-Galleria. The tourist greet lasted from 5pm to 6:30pm and was chaperoned by advisor, Rory Starkey. MYWAVE Club's purpose is to educate students about the importance of the tourism industry here in the Marianas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gala marks Humanities Council's 25 years

By MICHAEL T. SANTOS
michael.santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council celebrated its 25th anniversary with a dinner gala last Friday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan and featured an Oceania poet as its keynote speaker.

Board chair Frankie M. Eliptico said he is delighted to be at the helm of the council, especially as it celebrates a quarter century of existence.

"Being the chairperson for the Humanities [Council], 25 years after its initial beginnings is a very humbling

See GALA on Page 4

Keynote speaker Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner speaks about her experiences at the Humanities Council's 25th celebration at the Pacific Islands Club on Oct. 28, 2016.

MICHAEL SANTOS

8 Days Before ELECTION DAY

Early voting starts Nov. 1

» CEC designates polling places for early voting, Nov. 8 general election

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission has announced the designated polling places for the start of early voting tomorrow in the CNMI.

CEC executive director Julita A. Villagomez said the early voting for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will commence on Tuesday, Nov. 1, and end on Nov. 7.

Villagomez said polling places for all three senatorial districts will open at 8:30am and close at 4pm each day,

See EARLY on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION

Hillary Clinton is lashing out at the FBI's handling of a new email review.

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The foul-mouthed Philippine president has promised God he won't spew expletives again.

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WORLD

Syrian government forces launch a counteroffensive under the cover of airstrikes.

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TAGA SPORTS OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2016 EDITION

Local

MTEC visits Tinian Junior Senior High

The Marianas Tourism Education Council and Marianas Visitors Authority visited Tinian Junior Senior High on Oct. 24, 2016, to talk with students about working in the tourism and hospitality industry. For the past two years, the school has organized a MY WAVE (Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Club.

"My students absolutely enjoy the experience of being in the MY WAVE Club," said club adviser Erica Evangelista. "They love to learn about and appreciate our island's unique flora and fauna. They enjoy the experience of learning what it's like to be a cook in our campus kitchen. They also enjoy the challenge of learning how to fundraise so that they can use the funds towards a special club get-together., such as a "tourist for a day" activity or dining out in our local restaurants. We thank MTEC for helping us further educate our students on the importance of the tourism industry."

MTEC board member Gordon Marciano shared with the students his career path in the industry from cocktail server to general manager of tour company PDI. MTEC board member

Catherine Perry Harris gave students an overview of the tourism industry, including visitor profiles, how tourism benefits the community, careers in tourism, and various ways students can support the industry. Community projects specialist II Ryan Calvo presented on the role and activities of the MVA, including marketing activities and annual signature events.

"Although the tourism economy of Tinian is vastly different from that of Saipan at this point, the island is an important part of the overall package the MVA is advertising to visitors," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "There are limitations on the number of available hotel rooms, but Tinian is still an excellent choice for a day trip, and we're happy to join MTEC in dialoguing with students on their important role in supporting the industry. To support current tourism and proposed development on Tinian, we continue to make destination improvement on the islands in cooperation with the Tinian Mayor's Office. And each year, a portion of our annual appropriation goes directly to the mayor's office for charter flight incentives."

Also this week, MTEC presented a plaque of appreciation to former MTEC board member James Nelson on Oct. 26, 2016, at a luncheon in his honor at Kanoa Resort.

"James is well-versed in the island's tourism industry and is one of the Board's strongest supporters of the MTEC programs and objectives," said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente. "We appreciate his many years of service on the MTEC board of directors."

When he served as general manager of Docomo Pacific, Nelson designated MTEC as the recipient of the company's annual charity golf tournament, which raised funds to organize MY WAVE clubs and paved the way for this year's well-supported inaugural Governor's Tourism Cup.

"It's MTEC's focus on keeping tourism at the forefront of our children's minds that makes it a very important organization," said Nelson. "I will continue to support MTEC's efforts in making sure that the next generation of leaders understand the value of a vibrant tourism industry."

Schools interested in having an MTEC presentation may contact MVA community projects specialist Ryan Calvo at rcalvo@mymarianas.com or MVA community projects assistant Jennalyd Babauta at jbabauta@mymarianas.com or (670) 664-3210 to schedule a date. Private schools may also have a presentation upon request. ***(MTEC)***

Marianas Tourism Education Council board member and PDI general manager Gordon Marciano talks tourism with students of Tinian Junior Senior High on Oct. 24, 2016.
MTEC

Marianas Tourism Education Council chair Vicky Benavente, right, presents prizes to students of Tinian Junior Senior High for correctly answering tourism-related questions on Oct. 24, 2016. Also pictured from left are Marianas Visitors Authority Roads and Grounds manager Vida Borja, MVA community projects specialist Ryan Calvo, MVA community projects assistant Jennalyd Babauta, and MTEC board member Gordon Marciano.
MTEC

Marianas Tourism Education Council outgoing board member James Nelson, center, was presented with a plaque of appreciation by the board on Oct. 26, 2016, at Kanoa Resort. Pictured from left are MTEC board member Larry Lee, secretary Martin Duenas, MTEC chair Vicky Benavente, board member Gordon Marciano, Nelson, vice chair Wendi Herring, Marianas Visitors Authority community projects assistant Jennalyd Babauta, treasurer Shamika Ratwatte, and board member Catherine Perry Harris.
MTEC

Tourism Topics
A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.
Saipan Tinian Rota
HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

CNMI Next Top Chef

The Marianas Visitors Authority is pleased to be a supporter of the CNMI Next Top Chef competition to be held on Nov. 2, 2016, at Saipan World Resort.

The competition, jointly organized by the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation, will feature two world-class brands, Certified Angus Beef and Entwine, the wine of the Food Network and Cooking Channel. The Guam Food Guy Ken Stewart and Saipan's Gordon Marciano will MC the show, and judges will include regional culinary representatives.

This year's competition will feature 12 chef teams in a "Chopped"-style competition live on-stage at the Royal Taga Ballroom from 6-10 p.m. in three rounds: appetizers, main entrée, and dessert. Top prizes for competitors are $1,000 for first place, $500 for 2nd place, and $300 for 3rd. Tickets are $35/person and include the live show, diverse hors d'oeuvres prepared by HANMI-member hotels, and participation in wine-tasting and a raffle drawing. Raffle prizes include a Saipan-Manila round trip ticket on Philippine Airlines.

Tickets are available from Empty Vessel or HANMI member hotels. For tickets or to become a sponsor, contact Empty Vessel at 670.235.2340 or 670.287.0426. All proceeds will benefit Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
1976-2016 40 Years
www.mymarianas.com

IRS files tax lien vs Dynasty owner

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd., the owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, allegedly owes the U.S. Internal Revenue Service $593,821.39 in taxes for the 2015 to 2016 tax period.

IRS filed Friday a notice of federal tax lien against HKE before the U.S. District Court for the NMI. According to the IRS, taxes assessed against HKE remain unpaid.

IRS claimed that HKE owes Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Returns in the amount of $196,150.41 in tax period ending Sept. 30, 2015; $212,375.10 in the tax period ending Dec. 31, 2015; $139,750.19 in the tax period ending March 31, 2016; and $45,545.69 in the tax period ending June 30, 2016, for a total of $593,821.39.

Two weeks ago, the U.S. Marshals Service was only able to seize $595.84 from HKE bank accounts.

The U.S. Marshal Service seized the money shortly after U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered the clerk to issue a writ of execution to attorney Richard W. Pierce, the counsel for two plane crash survivors, in order to collect $1.4 million from HKE bank accounts.

In her order, Manglona ordered the clerk to direct the U.S. Marshals Service to levy execution on all funds in HKE's two accounts at Bank of Saipan and any Bank of Guam account it may hold, up to $1,375,952.71, to satisfy the survivors' judgment.

Writ of execution refers to a court order that allows for the collection of money or property owed by a judgment debtor.

Plane crash survivors Tomoyuki Nagata and Dr. Jun Takimoto and his family, through counsel Pierce, recently filed a request for entry of writ of attachment before the court.

Writ of attachment refers to a court order directing a law enforcement or sheriff to "attach" or seize an asset.

A U.S. Deputy Marshal informed the court that he executed the writ of execution and seized a total of $595.84 from HKE's two Bank of Saipan accounts.

No money was seized at Bank of Guam as HKE does not maintain an account with BOG.

SHEFA approves 625 college scholarships

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance office under the Saipan Mayor's Office has approved 625 scholarships out of 912 applicants for academic year 2016 and 2017.

The SHEFA board gave the approval last Oct. 27 during the regular meeting at the SHEFA office.

A total of 912 applicants have applied since July 21, 2016, for various educational pursuits. Thirty applied for a scholarship to obtain certificates, 433 applied for associate degrees, 397 for bachelor's degrees, and 38 for master's degrees. Fourteen applicants applied for advanced degrees.

With 454 applicants on-island, 384 were approved, resulting in 70 who were denied. Among off-island applicants, 241 were approved while 217 were denied, totaling 458 off-island applicants.

SHEFA has granted a little less than $1 million in scholarship since July 21, 2016, for the academic year 2016-2017.

SHEFA's mission is to provide scholarships to students in pursuit of a pos-secondary education on Saipan or abroad, with the ultimate goal of giving back to the CNMI community in terms of services and skills.

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- Instructor, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery

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"Where Technology Meets Talent"

235-9090
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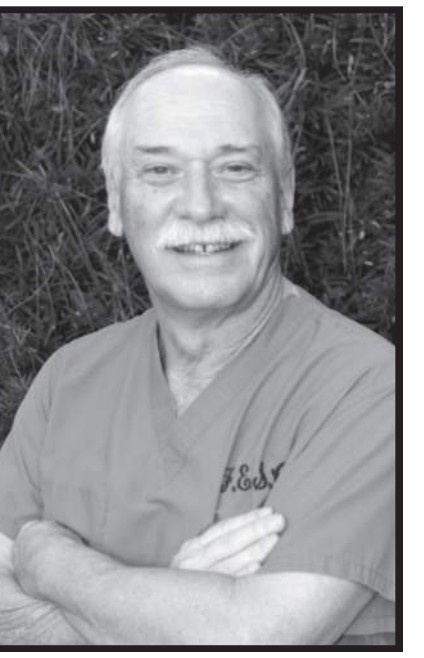

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Saipan

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October 1 - 31, 2015

Vino Spanish Bar

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Special Halloween Pirate's Menu

Captain Hook's Fingers
Stuffed Grape Leaves with Cucumber-Yogurt Dip

The Flying Dutchman's Favorite
Avocado Caviar with Cheese and Cilantro, Corn Tortilla chips

Yamashita's Treasure
Assorted Sushi Rolls and Nigiri

Mermaids on the Attic
Assorted fish sashimi 2 kinds

Jack Sparrow's Blood Bath
Beef tenderloin Brochette with onions and sweet peppers served with Bloody Mary sauce

With free welcome drink for every guests.

Halloween costume competition and trick or treat on Halloween night October 31st.

Bar opens from 16:00 to 23:00 every night
Happy Hour from 16:30 to 19:30
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Horror movie showcase every day from 5:00pm to 7:00pm

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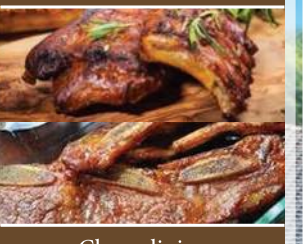
Daily Theme Lunch Buffet
11:00 to 2:00pm
$15.00/Adult | $8.00/Child

MONDAY — Authentic Chinese with Hot Pots
TUESDAY — Italian with Cioppino & Pasta Station Seafood Stew
WEDNESDAY — Korean with Bibimbap
THURSDAY — Chamolinian with BBQ
FRIDAY — Japanese with Shabu-Shabu
SATURDAY — International with Mongolian BBQ Station



Includes: Daily made appetizers, Crisp greens salad bar with condiments and choices of dressings,make your own sandwiches, Choices of freshly bake breads, Assorted Cheese platter and Nuts, Local fruits, Mouth watering desserts, Cakes, Ice cream and Bottomless Coca-Cola Soda fountain.

Please inquire also for group parties from 10 to 160 seats (Christening, Birthdays, Meetings or Seminars)

For reservation please call Aqua Resort Club @ 322-1234 ext. 731 or 732

MYWAVE CLUB

Members of the Saipan Southern High School's MY-WAVE Club greet tourists and locals a Happy Halloween as they roamed the streets of Garapan on Oct. 29, 2016. Candied treats were given to visitors along the areas of Paseo de Marianas, Fiesta Resort, Cha, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., and T-Galleria. The tourist greet lasted from 5pm to 6:30pm and was chaperoned by advisor, Rory Starkey.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SUPPORTING THE HUMANITIES

Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s Corporate Social Responsibility executive director Geri Dela Cruz and her team led the company in supporting the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, which marked its 25th anniversary over the weekend. The largest private sector employer in the CNMI donated $1,500 in support of the council's anniversary gala. Northern Marianas Humanities Council executive director Scott Russell received the check on behalf of the organization.

BSI-CSR PHOTO

GALA

From Page 1

honor. I have great respect for the individuals, executive directors, and board members who came before me and laid the groundwork to make sure humanities is what it is today, which is this great and important organization in the CNMI that advances the understanding of the human experiences."

According to Eliptico, funding for the council comes from a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the generosity of individual and corporate sponsors.

Keynote speaker Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner, a poet from the Marshall Islands who participated in the United Nations climate talks in Paris, talked about her advocacy for climate change.

"Climate change is something very real to me. Living at home and seeing how vulnerable our island was led me to realize that I had a fear of existence that wasn't there before and with everything in life, I turned to writing to understand that fear," she said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres presented the Governor's Humanities awards to Peter J. Perez for preservation of traditional cultural practices, Viola S. Deleon Guerrero as an outstanding humanities teacher, and the late David Kapileo Peter for the lifetime achievement in the humanities.

In a posthumous message to the council, Peter, who was honored also by a musical tribute during the event, said, "People should be acknowledged more while they live so they can celebrate it with their families, not when they pass away."

CRIMES

From Page 1

crimes continue to happen within the region. There's heaps of money laundering activities that go under the radar," Tupuo told members of the media during a break in Friday's training.

He said that customs offices should also be given access by financial institutions to assist them with their investigation. "They go undetected simply because we don't have information of these financial activities."

"Customs offices must also have access to that information so they could make proper analyses on financial activities. That is something that we are trying to work on right now," he added.

Drugs and human trafficking are the two other criminal activities that OCO monitors, with syndicates now operating at the multinational level in the region and the entire Pacific. "There are still human trafficking cases and they tend to occur more around the Pacific."

"They find the Pacific as a perfect playground for them to operate, like moving around from New Zealand to the United States for example. The threats are alarming and we need to have a more proactive approach toward it."

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, second left, and Customs chief Jose Mafnas, left, present a plaque of appreciation to Oceania Customs Organization operations manager Tevita Tupuo. JON PEREZ

Although OCO forbids racial profiling, Asians are mostly involved in these types of cases, like bringing in illegal substances—cocaine, heroine, and crystal meth or "ice" that is the number one drug smuggled.

"Intelligence gathering and sharing information are the keys in how officers can be proactive in identifying the types of risks, given the geographical challenges that we have in securing our maritime borders," said Tupuo. "The key is getting the right information like the flights and boats that are coming in. For customs officials to identify the high-risk passengers or cargo that are coming in and deploy all resources. Racial profiling is not allowed but right now, traffic is coming from Asian tourists."

Close collaboration by customs agencies under OCO must always be in place. "It really comes down to how the agencies collaborate with one another. OCO is providing information across the Pacific so agencies could come together and share it."

He highlighted training that is centered on enforcement, intelligence, investigation, and audit. "To get the awareness of risks involved not only in the CNMI but across the Pacific and how to improve collaboration in sharing specific information"—that is key.

Tupuo added that customs officers should take pride in what they do. "It is encouraging to know they are willing to learn. They are the first line of defense from what's coming in to the country. They should take pride in what they do. We're going to bring in more intelligence and investigation experts from Australia and New Zealand."

Other OCO members are the CNMI, Australia, New Zealand, Norfolk Islands, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Samoa, French Polynesia, Tonga, New Caledonia, American Samoa, Guam, the Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Wallis and Futuna, Palau, Timor Leste, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, FSM, Tuvalu, and Cook Islands.

EARLY

From Page 1

including weekends.

Villagomez earlier disclosed that all voters for the Northern Islands will also be casting their votes under the early voting system.

There are only 160-some Northern Island voters. At present, there are no voters staying on the Northern Islands.

Villagomez said there are also no absentee voters from the Northern Islands.

For Saipan voters, the polling place will be at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

For Tinian and Rota voters, the designated polling places are the islands' Department of Public Safety buildings.

Meanwhile, the CEC announced that the designated polling places for the Nov. 8 general election will open at 7am and close at 7pm that same day.

The designated polling places are the following:

- Precinct 1A (San Antonio)—Hopwood Junior High School
- Precinct 1B (San Vicente/Dandan)—Dandan Elementary School
- Precinct 1C (Koblerville)—Koblerville Youth Center
- Precinct 2 (Chalan Kanoa/Susupe)—Joeten Kiyu Public Library
- Precinct 3A (Oleai)—Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium
- Precinct 3B (Garapan)—Garapan Elementary School cafeteria
- Precinct 4A (Tanapag)—Tanapag Elem. School cafeteria
- Precinct 4B (San Roque/As Matuis)—Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School
- Precinct 4C (Capital Hill)—Jesus P. Mafnas Legislative Building
- Precinct 4D (Northern Islands)—Northern Islands
- Precinct 5 (Kagman)—Kagman Elementary School cafeteria
- Precinct 6 (Tinian)—Tinian Elementary School
- Precinct 7 (Rota)—Northern Marianas College campus-Rota

CEC administrative officer Kayla Igitol reminded voters to bring with them an identification card with picture as they will be required to present it in order to be issued a ballot.

‘Islands must offer something different’

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI’s three main islands—Saipan, Tinian, and Rota—must have something unique from the other and offer new attractions for healthy competition in getting tourists.

James Chua, who helps the Governor’s Office, said Tinian and Rota must come up with events so their communities could also get a piece of the tourism pie.

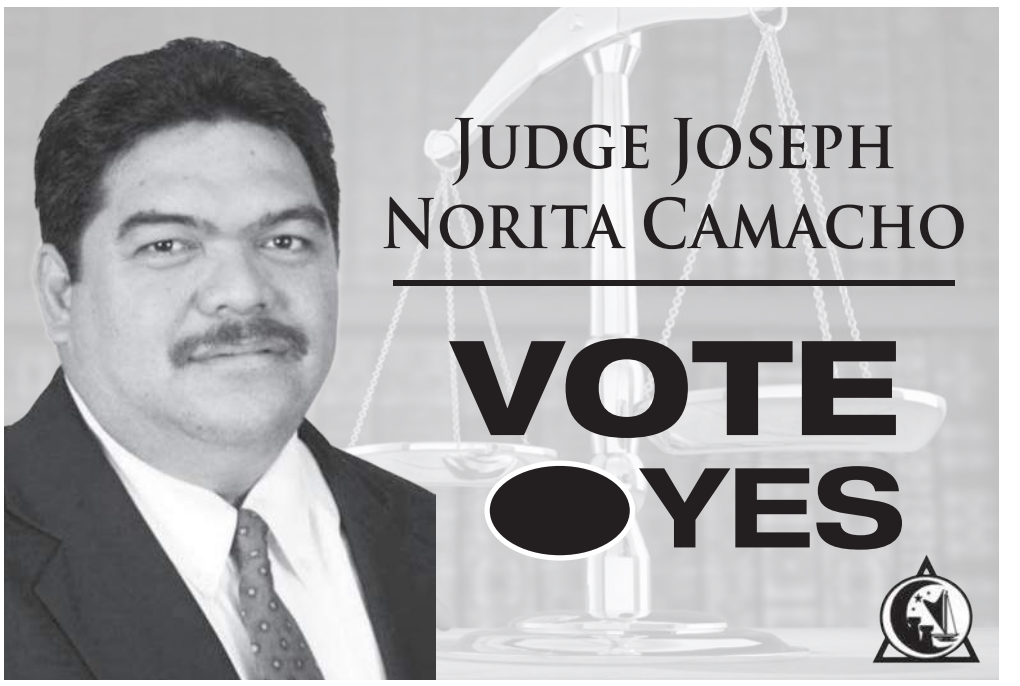
“That’s what’s lacking now on Tinian and Rota. Tourists should have some reason why they would want to go there. They have to create some kind of attraction, to entice tourists,” said Chua, the director of Pacific Century Inc. that also handles business development.

He cited the Philippines as an example. “Just like in the Philippines, it has many islands. So, if somebody flies to Manila then why they would want to go and visit Ilocos Norte? You have to develop something. There has to be something special there. … That’s what Tinian and Rota need to do, they have to develop something special so that when tourists come…and land on Saipan, they would also want to go to Tinian or to Rota. Because there is something special there that Saipan does not offer,” Chua added.

Chua was hired as an adviser and consultant of the Governor’s Office for Best Sunshine International, Ltd.’s multi-billion dollar casino project.

“Casino gaming is new on Saipan but it is also a very important industry. It is an important part of the CNMI now since it also generates revenue that funds public programs.”

He said developing projects on islands that are quite remote is one of the challenges that he encounters. The Tinian Casino and Gaming Commission also hired him a few years ago.



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Kia Forte LX retail price $17,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.40% APR for 72 monthly payments of $234.53 or $108.25 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $16,886.20.
Kia Soul LX retail price $18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.40% APR for 72 monthly payments of $247.56 or $114.26 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $17,824.32.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW/FHWA-16-IFB-001

ROUTE 10 HAZARD ELIMINATION PROJECT ROTA, PROJECT NO. CM-NH-0010 (002)

Acting Governor Victor B. Hocog and Acting Lt. Governor Francisco M. Borja., through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Route 10 Hazard Elimination Project Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package consisting of Plans, Specifications and Bid Documents will be available on or after **October 24, 2016** at Pacific Quick Print & Post, located in Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, is required to defray the cost of printing the package.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect."

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725 and 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratutitues, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **November 10, 2016,** 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **November 15, 2016** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.
The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW/FHWA-16-IFB-001"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 9:30 a.m. local time **November 18, 2016.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 9:30 a.m. local time **November 18, 2016**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **November 18, 2016** and must be received no later than **November 28, 2016.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 9:30 a.m. local time, **November 29, 2016.** However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 9:30 a.m. local time, on **November 18, 2016.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section **§70-30-3-245.** The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Two Hundred Seventy (270) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the standard Specification for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway Projects, FP-03

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhcgov.net. • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

NMHC EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

AUCTION NOTICE

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all the rights, title and interests of NMHC in and to the following described real property will be sold at auction:

LOT NO.:	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID :
010 K 169	SIRENA AVE., DANDAN, SAIPAN	$31,312.00

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, November 21, 2016 subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Minimum Bid. The minimum acceptable bid for each property is as indicated above.
2. Reserve. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of NMHC as Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, NMHC shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw any property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for these properties listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facisimile: 234-9021; or to Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale by cash, cashier's check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard). The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will automatically revert to NMHC. Also, failure to deposit the 10% of the purchase price on the same day will subject NMHC to award the winning bid to the next highest bidder. All auction terms and rules must apply to the next highest bidder.
6. Change of Terms. NMHC reserves the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of NMHC in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 14th day of October, 2016.

/S/ Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal housing provider, lender and employer.

Mitchell keynotes fire chiefs training

U.S. Fire Administrator-Chief Ernest Mitchell Jr., left, and Western Pacific Islands Association of Fire Chiefs president Stanley C. Torres listen to one of the speakers at Wednesday's kickoff of the three-day 5th Annual WPIAFC's training forum at Fiesta Resort and Spa's Hibiscus Hall. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. Fire Administrator Chief Ernest Mitchell Jr. served as the keynote speaker during the kickoff of the three-day 5th Annual Western Pacific Islands Association of Fire Chiefs Training Forum held Wednesday last week at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.

Mitchell talked largely about the theme of the conference, which is the use of technology especially in training.

Mitchell urged fire chiefs and firefighters to take advantage of all the lessons learned from everyone and incorporate that into their future responses.

He underscored the importance of using data and in making evidence-based decisions.

In an interview, Mitchell said it's about learning from experiences, from the training, taking advantage of the new technology out there, improving in preparing to respond to fires, increasing firefighters' safety, and reducing the number of preventable firefighters' deaths and injuries.

Mitchell, who is based in Washington, D.C., noted that association members are really improving.

"I really like their attitude toward improving and getting better, working together, collaborating, and sharing with each other so they make everybody better and stronger in their response," he said.

Mitchell said his message to firefighters in the Pacific Islands is to keep doing what they are doing—follow the leadership of the chiefs and the officers.

"What I learned coming up as a firefighter is in order to be a good leader you first have to be a good follower," he said.

Mitchell said the folks involved here are very much dedicated to serving their communities and saving peoples' lives, and protecting their own firefighters.

"And so I think that's just something that all of them have to remember at all times, just keep working together," he added.

Association president Stanley C. Torres said they are celebrating five years of continuous camaraderie and fellowship among fire services in the Pacific—the CNMI, Guam, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Torres said the uniqueness about their conference is they are able to bring top fire service leaders to come and speak to them and mentor them.

Torres said Mitchell is the fire chief for the U.S.

"In the military he is kind of like our general. He is here. We are honored to have him here talking about safety and training," Torres said.

He said they are also here to honor and recognize Federal Aviation Administration's Airports District Office Honolulu manager Ronnie V. Simpson.

Torres said Simpson's help for the past 15 to 20 years has improved the service of airports throughout Micronesia—Guam, the CNMI, Palau, FSM, and Marshall Islands.

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Secretary Claudio K. Norita said the International Association of Fire Chiefs in the U.S. mainland has divisions all over. The Western Division just opened up a new subdivision, the Western Pacific Islands Association of Fire Chiefs, which encompasses the CNMI, Guam, Palau, FSM, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

"We have a seat in the international fire division board of directors," Norita said.

It's the second time for the CNMI to host the annual association training.

"The association itself is bringing all of our fire chiefs in Micronesia together, discussing about issues that affect our fire service, new training, new equipment, national protocols, how we fight fire, how we deal with fire, and of course leadership and so forth," Norita said.

He said fire equipment vendors and federal partners from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Federal Aviation Administration, and Coast Guard are also participating in the training.

WAP program now accepting applicants

The Department of Public Works' Energy Division, Weatherization Assistance Program for low income residents on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota is now accepting applications on a first come, first serve basis.

Individuals wishing to avail of this program may obtain an application for service at the Energy Division on Capitol Hill building 1337 on Saipan. For Tinian and Rota, applicants can pick up applications at the Tinian or Rota Mayor's Office or you may download applications from our website at www.cnmienergy.com.

If you have any questions regarding this program, do not hesitate to contact program manager Christine Babaut or Eugene C. Borja, auditor, at 664-4481; Monday through Friday, except holidays, from 7:30am to 11:30am and from 12:30pm to 4:30pm. ***(PR)***

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With the completion of our undersea fiber optic cable named "Atisa", we will soon deliver a more dynamic television experience that will offer Video on Demand, Pay-Per-View, and HD channels to the Marianas.

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Better Together

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-001

Removal of old Engine, Alternator (No. 8) and Turnkey Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 1 x 8 - 10 MW of Diesel Generating Plant System

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for the Removal of old Engine, Alternator (No. 8) and Turnkey Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 1 x 8 - 10 MW of Diesel Generating Plant System at CUC Power Plant No. 1, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The solicitation seeks responses from qualified ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS (OEM's) from which CUC intends to select one proposer to negotiate the final scope of work and enter into a contract agreement that best fit CUC's power supply requirements.

The Scope of Work and Solicitation Package will be emailed upon request, by CUC Procurement & Supply Office from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except on government observed holidays. Prospective proponents for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at Power Plant Administration Office in Lower Base, Saipan on **October 18, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to Power Plant No. 1 facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-17-001 – Removal of old Engine, Alternator (No. 8) and Turnkey Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 1 x 8 - 10 MW of Diesel Generating Plant System"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **November 9, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 20, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, Purchasing Assistant via email address Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org and Venugopal Prabhakara, Power Generation APCM/PM via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-002

CONSULTANCY SERVICES, SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF SIX ENGINE SYSTEMS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for the oversight and management of Supply and Installation of Six (6) Engine Systems, 8-10 MW/Each, at CUC Saipan Power Plant 1, Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The solicitation seeks responses from suitably qualified entities from which CUC intends to select one consultant to negotiate the final scope of work and enter into a contract agreement that best fit CUC's consultancy and construction management requirements.

The Scope of Work and Solicitation Package will be emailed upon request, by CUC Procurement & Supply Office from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except on government observed holidays. Prospective proponents for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at Power Plant Administration Office in Lower Base, Saipan on **October 19, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to Power Plant No. 1 facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-17-002 – Consultancy Services, Supply and Installation of Six Engine Systems"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **November 10, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business

license in compliance with the Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 21, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, Purchasing Assistant via email address Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org and Venugopal Prabhakara, Power Generation APCM/PM via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

World War II fallen honored at Sugar King Park ceremony

The path leading to the Katori Jingu Shrine at the Sugar King Park. ERWIN ENCINARES

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Japanese Society of Northern Marianas honored the fallen of World War II in a ceremony at the Katori Jingu Shrine at Sugar King Park last Oct. 22.

The shrine was originally built at another site in 1914 but was moved to Sugar King Park in 1931. The Katori Jingu Shrine was destroyed during the war; it was burned to the ground. It was later rebuilt by the Katori Shrine Association of Japan, with the assistance of the local government, finishing the reconstruction in 1985.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion honored the occasion with his presence. "We are very excited to welcome back our friends from Japan who hold the ceremony annually here in the CNMI," he said. "This shows how important the Japan tourism market is to Saipan's tourism industry. We want to continue these relations and we want to welcome more Japanese into the Marianas and make sure that these relations remain to be more fruitful for the future."

Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan) agreed with Concepcion, with hopes that more people would attend the ceremony next year.

"It's important that we continue to support the lone [country] that actually brought the tourists here in the CNMI, the Japan market. I encourage the community, hopefully next year, to come and support this event when it takes place again. It's important for them to honor the dead that died here during World War II. …I'm going to look forward to encouraging the Legislature to come up and show support in the future," he said.

Saipan Mayor's Office special assistant Henry Hofschneider said the ceremony is important to the Saipan Mayor's Office because of past relationships.

"This is an event that the Mayor's Office always look forward to. This brings back our friends and families who lived here on Saipan at one point, so their families, their generations, are coming back. We need to continue making our bonds and relationships strong. This ceremony is annual, and the mayor's always ready to help them," said Hofschneider. The ceremony has been held annually since 1985.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Japanese Shinto high priest (guji) Takeshi Katori, center, poses with Japanese pilgrims, Saipan Mayor's Office special assistant Henry Hofschneider, Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan), Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion, Japanese Consul Toshio Matsumura, Saipan Mayor's Office director of operations Joann Aquino, and MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman after the Katori Jingu Shrine ceremony honoring those that have fallen during WWII.

APPRECIATION PARTY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Imperial Pacific International's chief operating officer Yiu Ling Kwong and executive vice president for gaming operations Henry Cheang Ka Hou pose alongside Sen. Sixto Igisomar and Reps. Angel Demapan, George Camacho, and John Paul Sablan before last Saturday evening's presentation of a twin legislative resolutions honoring IPI's Corporate Social Responsibility team. It was held during employee appreciation party to the CNMI largest private sector employer.

Torres extends deadline for absentee voting

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed Friday House Bill 19-204 to extend the deadline and procedure for absentee ballots. The bill is now known as Public Law 19-70 just three days after the Senate passed it on first and final reading without amendments on Oct. 25.

PL 19-70 suspends 1 CMC 6213 where all absentee ballots must be received on or before Election Day—in this case on Nov. 8. There was fear that this was too close, that absentee voters would not have enough time to send back their ballots. The Commonwealth Election Commission just sent all 1,564 absentee ballots last week.

The new law now gives enough time for absentee voters to return the ballots after they've voted.

Rep. Felicidad T. Ogumoro (R-Saipan) introduced HB 19-204.

PL 19-70 also suspends the counting of all absentee ballots received on or before Nov. 8. It now allows the counting of all absentee ballots that are received on or before the 10th day after the elections, Nov. 18.

All absentee ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received by the Commonwealth Election Commission no later than 14 calendar days after Nov. 8.

The ballot may be rejected if the CEC finds any violation like not matching signatures, affidavit not properly completed, return envelope not sealed, seal was tampered, the commission had already received an absentee ballot from the same person, the absentee voter had already died or had become ineligible to vote, or return envelope is not postmarked on or before No. 8.

The CEC ordered 21,000 ballots with 1,564 for absentee voters. The CNMI has 17,000 registered voters.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

Frank M. Rabauliman
Administrator

Frances A. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

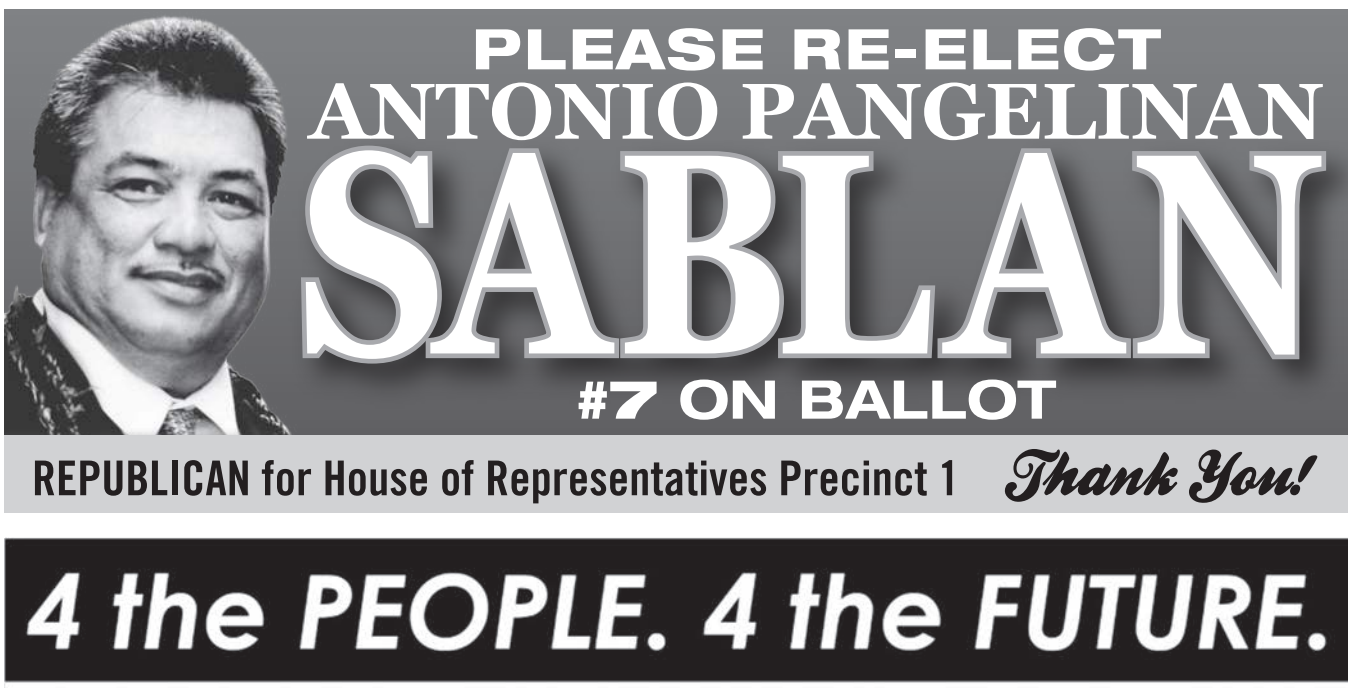
The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Guam-CNMI ATISA Fiber Optic Cable System project. The ATISA Fiber Optic Cable System will be linking the main islands of the CNMI with Guam, United States and Asia while offering CNMI residents with competitive rates on services and features. Docomo Pacific, Inc. proposes to lay a fiber optic cable on three main islands in the CNMI - Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. On Rota, the cable is proposed to land at the "CUC Sewer Outfall Corridor" in Songsong. On Tinian, the cable is proposed to land at Tachogna Beach in San Jose either at the southern or northern end of the beach. On Saipan, the cable is proposed to land at Abraham Place Road in Chalan Kanoa.

The public hearing is scheduled for November 2, 2016, at 5:00PM at the BECQ main conference room (2nd floor) in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project file is open for review and comment during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M, Monday thru Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application record and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project.

Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Guam-CNMI ATISA Fiber Optic Cable System project.

/s/ Frances A. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management



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House 31 | Tottotville Estates
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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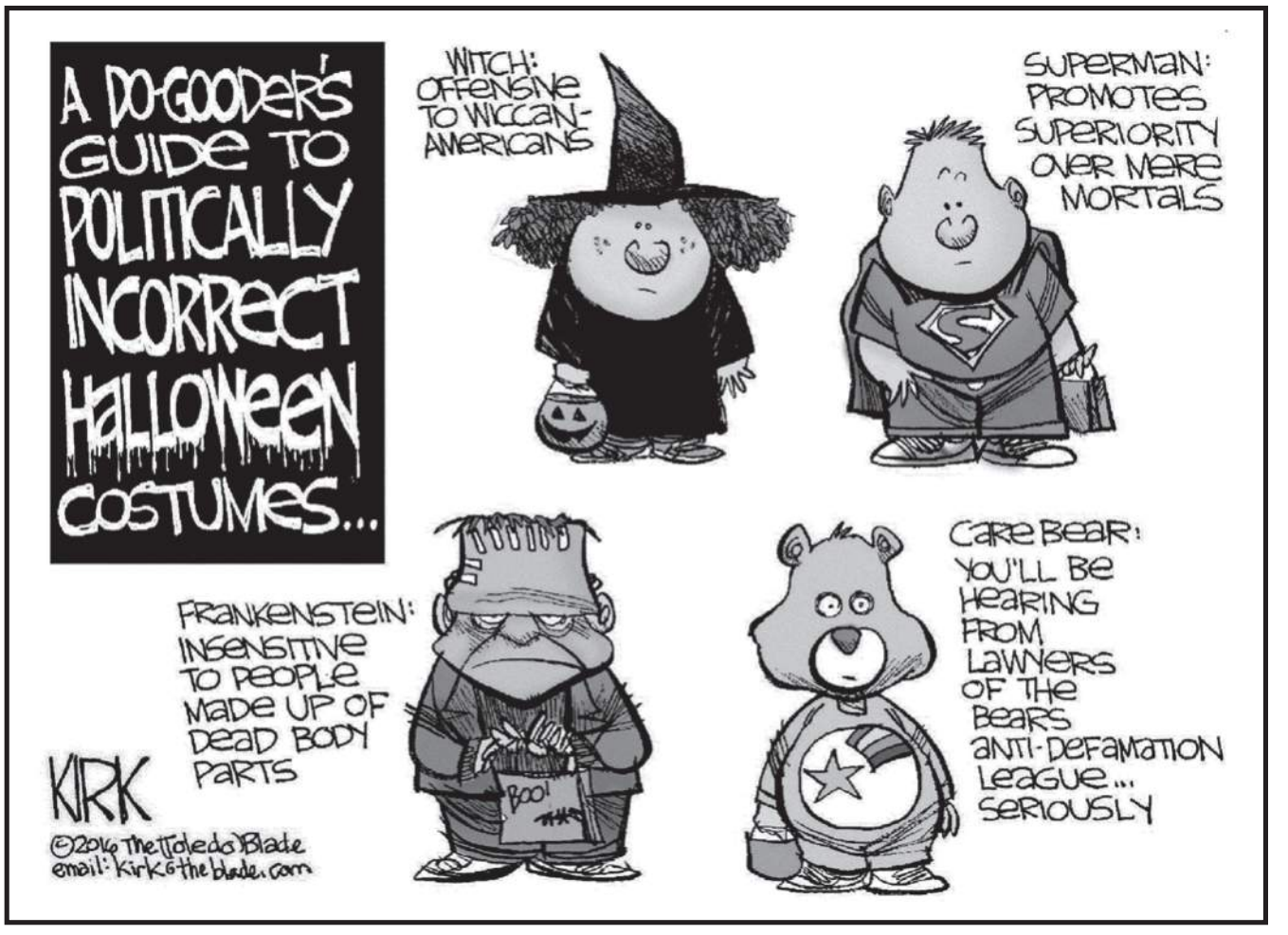
A DO-GOODER'S GUIDE TO POLITICALLY INCORRECT HALLOWEEN COSTUMES...
WITCH: OFFENSIVE TO WICCAN-AMERICANS
SUPERMAN: PROMOTES SUPERIORITY OVER MERE MORTALS
FRANKENSTEIN: INSENSITIVE TO PEOPLE MADE UP OF DEAD BODY PARTS
BOO!
CARE BEAR: YOU'LL BE HEARING FROM LAWYERS OF THE BEARS ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE... SERIOUSLY
KIRK
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email: kirk@theblade.com

EDITORIAL

By BART CHILTON
Tribune News Service

Bart Chilton, a former U.S. trading commissioner, is author of Ponzimonium: How Scam Artists Are Ripping Off America. *Readers may send him email at bartchilton@bartchilton.com.*

What we've got: The excelling economy and the election

Sometimes, particularly during election silly season, when candidates complain about this, that and the other thing, we fail to recognize how good we have it. Such, I believe, is the case with our economy.

As Joni Mitchell wrote, "Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got till it's gone?"

Well, to determine just what we've got, let's look at the current state of our economy and then examine how it might be impacted by the outcome of the presidential election.

Recently, we have seen some very positive economic news that has sent some seriously strong signals that our economy is on a straighter and stronger path than it has been since the Great Recession ended in June 2009. In fact, we've witnessed 88 continuous months of economic growth, the fourth-longest expansion since 1854. But wait, there's more.

n On Friday, the Commerce Department announced that our total economic output, also known as gross domestic product, surpassed expectations during the third quarter of this year. Analysts anticipated a 2.5 percent growth rate during the July-through-September quarter, but the economy actually grew at 2.9 percent. That's more than double the 1.4 percent growth we saw in the second quarter.

To put things in perspective, when the Great Recession began to really wallop our economy during the fourth quarter of 2008, growth was negative 8.2 percent. (The recession technically began in December 2007.) Since that time, growth has varied. But the bottom line here is that 2.9 percent is very positive.

n On unemployment, we just witnessed the 86th week of jobless claims below 300,000. That's far below the near 50-year average of roughly 358,000. The current national unemployment rate is 5 percent, which is where it's been for about a year. (The state with the highest unemployment rate is Alaska, at 6.9 percent, and the state with the lowest is New Hampshire, at 2.9 percent.) To put that in perspective, just after the recession began, the unemployment rate increased to 10.1 percent. (In more than 45 years, the highest rate was seen in December 1982, when it reached 10.8 percent, and the lowest rate was recorded in May 1969, when it measured 3.4 percent.) Bottom line: 5 percent is very positive.

n On consumer confidence, the widely watched Univer-

See ELECTION on Next Page

Addressing gout

By RUSS MASON
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Russ Mason, M.S., wrote for a medical journal, "Alternative & Complementary Therapies," for eight years. He interviewed dozens of doctors who had much to share about unconventional treatment options. These included Tibetan medicine, Chinese medicine, botanicals, and treating stroke victims with hyperbaric oxygen.

Gout is near-epidemic in the CNMI, and hundreds of people suffer from it every day.

Because it's so widespread, it's important to bring some useful information to people who suffer from this painful and unique form of arthritis, caused by an excess of uric acid in the joints, particularly the big toe.

When I want to learn about a disease and possible treatment options, I always visit mercola.com. Dr. Joseph Mercola is in a class by himself and he knows his stuff.

This is what he has to say about gout:

"A gout attack, or 'flare,' usually strikes suddenly and generally at night. Mysteriously, it often targets the large joint of your big toe. Your skin becomes red, inflamed, and overly sensitive. Even the light pressure of a bed sheet can become unbearable.

What exactly is gout?

"Gout is a type of arthritis characterized by painful, stiff and inflamed joints. The stiffness and swelling are a result of excess uric acid forming sharp crystals in your joints, and the pain associated with this disease is caused by your body's inflammatory response to the crystals.

"Gout is essentially a breakdown of the metabolic process that controls the amount of uric acid in your blood. Gout can occur in any joint of your body, but most commonly occurs in your big toe.

The real cause of gout

"You may have wondered why you developed gout, while your spouse, neighbor, or co-worker didn't. The simple answer is typically quite straightforward once you understand how your body works and is generally related to your diet and lifestyle.

"At the most basic level, a gout attack usually results from years of having high levels of uric acid in your blood, a condition called hyperuricemia.

"While uric acid normally dissolves in your blood and passes harmlessly through your kidneys, it's possible for your body to either produce too much uric acid or excrete too little in your urine. The resulting buildup of uric acid forms needle-like crystals in your joints and surrounding tissues that causes the searing pain.

Avoid soft drinks, such as colas

"Countless health problems have been linked to the consumption of high fructose corn syrup (a refined sugar), including gout. A recent study showed that consumption of sugar-sweetened soft drinks is strongly associated with an increased risk of developing gout.

"Most fruit juices also have added fructose; and fructose contains no beneficial enzymes, vitamins, minerals, or additional micronutrients. Instead, it actually leeches them from your body. High fructose corn syrup (which can be found in many foods and beverages), can also interfere with your heart's use of vital minerals such as magnesium, copper, and chromium.

Maintaining ideal body weight also part of the solution.

"Another risk factor for gout is obesity. Approximately half of all gout sufferers are overweight. Excess weight worsens gout because irritated nerve endings are further irritated by having to support and deal with extra weight. Additionally, obesity can worsen any type of arthritis.

Avoid prescription drugs for gout unless absolutely necessary

"Over the years, medical science has used a number of pharmaceuticals in an attempt to treat gout. That list includes, among others, Colchicine, corticosteroids, Corticotropin (adrenocorticotropic hormone), Febuxostat, Aloprim, and Zyloprim.

"Even if drugs like these could cure gout (there is little evidence that they do) you still would experience unpleasant side effects.

"Drugs such as Allopurinol and Colchicine work by lowering your uric acid levels and decreasing crystal formation, or by simply blocking your body's natural inflammatory response. They are also commonly prescribed for gout.

"But these drugs also have dangerous long-term side effects, and gout is frequently regarded as a lifelong condition, so you may end up staying on these drugs for a long time, which can wreak havoc on your health.

Cherries to the rescue!

Although Dr. Mercola writes that fresh cherries and strawberries are helpful, these fruits are very expensive in the Commonwealth, if they are available at all. That is why you should substitute a bottle of "tart cherry extract" capsules, available at various Internet health sites. (swansonvitamins.com is a very good source and their prices are reasonable).

See GOUT on Next Page

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'Legalization, not procrastination'

Given the election is not promising much of anything in the way of change—and with Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's right around the corner—I wonder what citizens will be celebrating over the holidays beyond religious and family connections and thankfulness. But will we be thankful or celebrating anything the 19th Legislature has done? This is not to pass judgement on the 19th Legislature as to "what they have done or what they have failed to do" but in fact to humbly and respectfully ask for their consideration to leave the people a gift before concluding the business of the 19th Legislature. Just think, wouldn't it be just great if the 19th Legislature would give the people a genuine gift before they retire in December?

Too often our Legislature is putting a charge on us citizens and even constantly raising these charges in taxes, fees and everything else to generate more revenues. Wouldn't it be just great if the 19th Legislature would reverse this trend from charging citizens more to doing something that will create new revenues and good jobs for citizens? Wouldn't it be great to see new funding for things like local subsidies for living, new high paying jobs with career potential for U.S. citizens only, more funding for education, more funding for the Judiciary, more funding for CHCC, more funding for CUC and even help the government with paying all the outstanding debts. Wouldn't it be just great to see real prosperity for an overwhelming majority of the local people and businesses in the CNMI? Well, legalization can do all these things and more and it would truly be the best gift to the people of the CNMI since the very creation of the Commonwealth's tourist industry.

It is very clear we have missed one window of opportunity for legalization to be on the ballot but it is not too late for the 19th Legislature to pass a law. Legalization is serious and not just about people getting high as people are living and dying in pain everyday. If we are to avoid two more years of social, economic and criminal justice uncertainty when it comes to legalization and even a level of deterioration in our chances to capture the cannabis tourism market for our region then we should legalize it now! Common sense and logic actually dictates that waiting for another two years will serve no purpose, especially when other states have already opened the door and proved that legalization works and that it is safe for other states to enter and join in the benefits of this social and economic evolution!

In fact, the only reason legalization has been so slow to implement has been the lack of political willpower and the reasons we are waiting now is because of election politics. However, should the 19th Legislature choose to legalize marijuana after Nov. 8 there are virtually no political risk, especially for those who may be misfortunate and lose. People can still be given the opportunity to vote on continuing or terminating legalization "after" seeing how good or bad legalization is in reality as opposed to voting based on their personal guess as to how legalization might be in the CNMI. Legalizing marijuana first before a vote is actually better as people can make a much more informed decision because in reality we are all guessing at this point. I just happen to be one of the many who are making a well informed and educated guesses based on the history and the current facts about legalization as they continue to evolve.

The 19th Legislature and governor can give the entire CNMI a gift that may be one of the best gifts ever given by a government to its people beyond protecting and serving—prosperity! The legalization of an "herb" that was given to us in nature to use will truly be a gift that we the people can truly be thankful for, a gift that will surely improve the quality of life in the CNMI and especially a gift that the sick and dying have needed ever since the creation of mankind.

Ambrose M Bennett
Kagman,Saipan

GOUT

From Page 10

Dr. Mercola also mentions cherry juice concentrate. Although it is probably not available in local stores, you can certainly find it on eBay.

"Cherry juice concentrate can contain about 55 to 60 tart cherries in every ounce. That's a single recommended serving, so in other words, you'd have to eat 55 to 60 cherries to get the same health benefit (and I don't recommend eating 55 to 60 cherries, as that is too much sugar... but with a concentrate, you can get the health benefit of the cherries without all the sugar).

Coping with gout

"Avoid drinking soda, fruit juice, or other sweetened beverages. Instead, drink plenty of pure water, as this will help to remove uric acid from your body. Cut back on all forms of sugar in your diet.

"Limit the alcohol you drink (or eliminate it altogether). Alcohol may raise the levels of uric acid in your blood.

"Try tart cherries or concentrated tart cherry juice. Tart cherries contain two powerful compounds, anthocyanins and bioflavonoids. Both of these compounds slow down the enzymes Cyclo-oxyygenase-1 and -2, which helps to relieve and prevent gout and arthritis in your body."

Although Dr. Mercola doesn't mention apple cider vinegar, two ounces in a glass a water will also go a long way to helping to reduce the pain from gout. If your pain is a 10, the vinegar will reduce it to 5.

The best vinegar (for a variety of uses) is organic apple cider (such as Bragg's) which has "the mother"—which is the unfiltered, unprocessed part of the apple. It's a quick pain reliever for anybody who suffers from gout.

I feel compassion for anyone who has gout, but, as Dr. Mercola writes, there are a number of things you can do to alleviate the pain. If you suffer from gout, I encourage you to try them all.

ELECTION

From Page 10

sity of Michigan index currently stands at 87.2. While that figure's somewhat lower than it has been in recent months, it's still above the 60-plus year average of 85.9. Bottom line: positive.

■ On fuel costs, the current average price is $2.22 for a gallon of regular. (Oklahoma has the lowest price at $1.96, and Hawaii and California have the highest at $2.90 and $2.78, respectively.) Last year, the average driver saved $540 due to reduced gas prices, a fact not lost on the families and businesses that rely on affordable fuel to manage their budgets. Bottom line: very positive.

All of this economic data is objectively encouraging, but what might happen economically following the election of Democrat Hillary Clinton or Republican Donald Trump?

_Well, the Tax Policy Center projected the economic effect of each candidate's tax proposal over the next decade and determined Clinton's would be better for growth than Trump's.

■ New research contained in a Brookings Institution report suggests "financial markets expect a generally healthier domestic and international economy under a President Clinton than under a President Trump."

■ And, correspondingly, the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget determined that Clinton would produce better growth than Trump.

Based on all of this data and analysis, it's difficult to dispute that we're on an admirable economic course. Sure, it's easy to degrade and disparage, and that's particularly true during campaign season. Many say things should be better, that our trade deals are bogus, that health care needs to be more affordable and of better quality, that tax polices need to be reformed, and that we need to invest in an economy with better paying jobs.

But what's most worth noting is that our economy is doing much better than those of most other nations. We wouldn't trade it for any of the European economies. Even the Chinese economy, which continues to have decent growth, isn't the type of structural economy we would want in our free market system.

Things could be better, but they are pretty, pretty, pretty good—and continue to improve.

Now that we know what we've got, let's just hope that after this election we stay on our straight, strong course and head toward an even brighter economic and financial future.

LITERARY NOOK

I Look at the Campaign

By JOEY "PEPE BATON" CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I look at the campaign
read claptrap on Trump's blog
and this is what I see
a narrow minded demagogue
threatening American liberty
I heard of ludicrous Mexican walls
planned by a racist pumped up ego
and wonder where he got the balls
to think Americans would say
along with you we go
I look at poll after poll
and what do my tired eyes find
that most American's realize
Donald Trump has lost his mind

After Langston Hughes' poem I Look At The World.

D.J. Trump – Portrait of a Loser

Trump? I clearly see a 'BIGLY' loser there
lacking the substance a president requires
with 70 year old teenage hormonal desires
spouting untruths he calls the media unfair
my heart and soul sink so I say a prayer
for Trump and the muck in which he mires
a campaign where candidates call each other liars
in search to find a truth he knows not where
will he give direct answers to the hard part
of questions the media and general public ask
or is he just a blowhard super dumb old fart
bumbling billionaire not equal to the task
direct my vote to the person that is right
as an educated voter with some clear insight

(inspired by 16th century Tuscan poet, Giovanni Della Casa's poem, 'Portrait of a Lady'. Della Casa is also known for a famous etiquette book, called 'Galateo'. Something Trumpery should have read before he started his ugly campaign.)

"And the Walls Came Down All the Way to Hell..."

Great Wall of China:
the Emperor of China had troubles from the North
he had a wall built from the sea to the Gobi desert
invaders climbing over and around poured forth
many who built it died and took most of the hurt
Medieval Castle Walls:
kings, queens, princes, duchesses and dukes
built thick castle walls surrounded by moats
many have now crumbled and royalty rebuked
democracy adopted and leaders elected by votes
The Berlin Wall:
after WWII Russians and German Communists
built a wall across Berlin so that people couldn't run
those escaping were shot, German spies kept lists
Reagan said 'Tear Down This Wall' destruction had begun
Trump's Mexican Wall:
Donald J. Trump promises a huge anti Mexican border wall
which will ultimately take Trumpty Dumpty on his final fall

The title is taken from the first line of the chorus of Tweeter and the Monkey Man as sung by Bob Dylan and the Traveling Wilburys, 1988.

Deny the Adult Adolescent Aspirant

America is already great I've always thought
and it is alive and well within my patriotic breast
with our great history and why our forefathers fought
on my birthdate the Star Spangled Banner rests*
Trump says he will "Make America Great Again"
that he will build a Mexican wall to give us hope
his red hats keep repeating the campaign refrain
while many women say he likes to grab and grope
repeating himself twice or more in all his speeches
loads of negatives, empty promises, and little policy
with an insulting whining demeanor he preaches
his entire campaign is lacking in POTUS quality
my thoughts on Donald Trump will not be moved
his brute demagoguery is simply NOT APPROVED

**Inspiration is Petrarch's 14th century sonnet, Love the Tyrant. I was born on Sept. 14, the day Francis Scott Key wrote the Star Spangled Banner in 1814.*

Our Nation's Fate After a Thousand Days

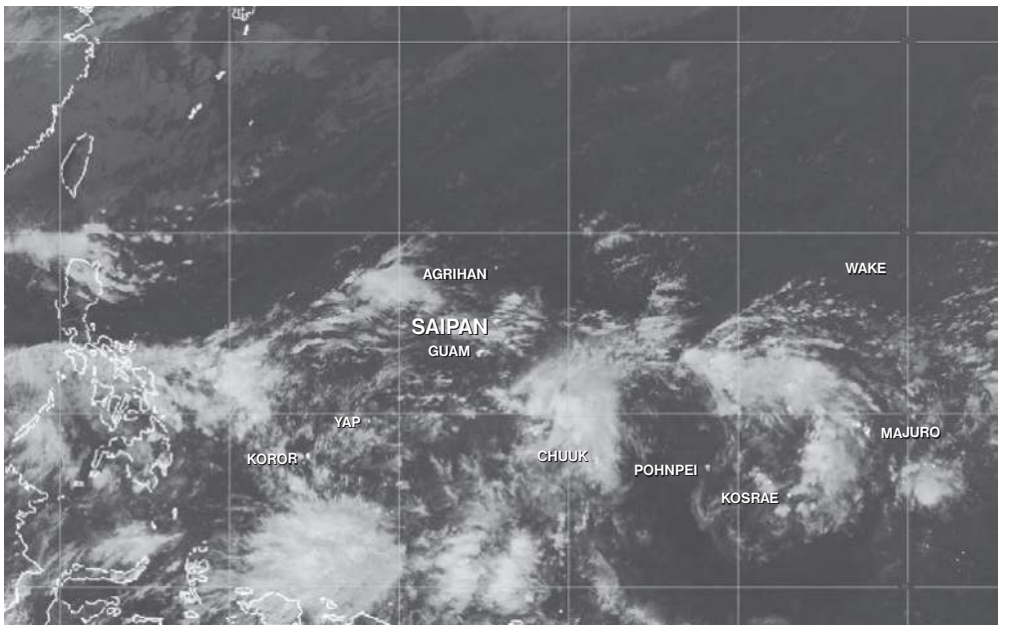
well D.T. won the 2016 election and wouldn't you just know
his major foreign policy program is completely bogged down
with inordinate obsession and focus on the border of Mexico
dumb immigration policy of President Trumpty Dumpty clown
already three years and president more than a thousand days
fighting with both houses of Congress for funding and passage
Americans who look south from San Diego see only pollution haze
D.T.'s at Taco Bell, Taco Time, Chipotle eating chorizo sausage
about all those promises to stop crime and killing on the streets
there has not been one piece of legislation on gun law passed
Neighborhood Watch gets a few Trump Tweets and Retweets
Pence and Congress remain filibustered with a focus on the past
from Brownsville, TX to Baja California, Chihuahua to Calexico
only coyotes and mules cross the desert on the border of Mexico

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Cloudy and breezy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms	Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:05 AM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Andersen Air Force Base Doppler weather radar shows scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Tinian and Saipan waters with isolated showers over Guam and Rota waters. The VAD wind profile reveals east-northeast winds of 7 to 17 knots through the lowest 6 thousand feet of the air which then build to between 15 and 25 knots between 7 thousand and 22 thousand feet. Winds are likely higher to the north as evidenced by peak wind remarks in the Saipan metar observations.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲
Guam and Rota	Partly sunny	82 / 88 °F
Palau	Mostly cloudy	80 / 86 °F
Yap	Mostly cloudy	80 / 89 °F
Chuuk	Morning clouds	78 / 87 °F
Pohnpei	Morning clouds	76 / 85 °F
Kosrae	Heavy rain	82 / 86 °F
Majuro	Partly sunny	79 / 85 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▼ ▲
Auckland	Morning clouds	45 / 61 °F
Beijing	Sunny	24 / 41 °F
Hong Kong	Partly cloudy	74 / 85 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	73 / 80 °F
London	Morning clouds	48 / 63 °F
Los Angeles	Cloudy	56 / 67 °F
Manila	Partly cloudy	80 / 90 °F
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	48 / 60 °F
Miami	Partly cloudy	77 / 82 °F
New York	Sunny	44 / 53 °F
Osaka	Light rain	45 / 67 °F
Paris	Partly cloudy	45 / 62 °F
Pusan	Morning clouds	46 / 58 °F
Rome	Mostly sunny	45 / 69 °F
Salem	Cloudy	49 / 59 °F
San Francisco	Cloudy	57 / 64 °F
Seoul	Mostly cloudy	33 / 52 °F
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	46 / 61 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly sunny	46 / 60 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
2:00 AM	LOW TIDE	0.05 Feet
8:21 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.82 Feet
2:15 PM	LOW TIDE	0.85 Feet
7:31 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.84 Feet

SUNRISE / SUNSET		
Today	6:13 AM	5:48 PM
Tuesday	6:13 AM	5:48 PM
Wednesday	6:13 AM	5:48 PM
Thursday	6:14 AM	5:47 PM
Friday	6:14 AM	5:47 PM

MOONRISE / MOONSET		
Today	6:23 AM	6:19 PM
Tuesday	7:11 AM	7:00 PM
Wednesday	7:59 AM	7:43 PM
Thursday	8:48 AM	8:29 APM
Friday	9:36 AM	9:16 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

A representative of Calvo's SelectCare speaks at the launch of Docomo Pacific's "Be Seen, Be Safe" glow stick Campaign in Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'Lee Pan' calls for stricter laws vs vandalism

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan) will introduce a bill that he hopes will finally address the perennial problem of vandalism of tourist sites on Saipan following the desecration of the Katori Jingu Shrine at Sugar King Park last Oct. 22.

The Katori Jingu Shrine was desecrated by unknown suspect or suspects, which fortunately was found just days before the important Katori Jingu Shrine Ceremony.

Guerrero said he is already looking at introducing a bill to address that problem, and one of the proposed solutions is holding parents accountable for their children's misdeeds.

"We need to stiffen the law itself. We've got to hold accountable the perpetrators that are doing this. If it's the kids, I think that we should punish the parents, because the parents are responsible for their actions," he said. "I don't see any reason to continue to allow this to happen. We see this vandalism happening all around the island. We need to be diligent in addressing these concerns because we can't continue to let this thing happen in the CNMI."

Saipan Mayor's Office special assistant Henry Hofschneider agrees with the call to hold parents of minors accountable in the event that they are found guilty of vandalism.

"Parents are responsible for their minor children. If they do anything that harms the public property, personal property, or private property, then the parents should answer for that. There are a lot of things that we can do to let children understand that vandalism does not help us. It's costing us a lot of money," he said.

Hofschneider said that vandalism also affects how others see the CNMI.

"It makes us look like we are not educated, not well behaved, or raised in a good family, and that is not who we are," he said.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion agrees that there should be stricter laws, but prefers to steer clear when it comes to who should be held accountable.

"[The MVA is] in support of stricter laws and penalties or punishment for vandalism and other crimes directed at tourists or tourist sites. Whether or not the minors or the parents themselves are to be held accountable, I will leave that to the Executive Branch to decide what path forward to take when it comes to law making," he said.

Concepcion reiterated the importance of these tourist attractions to the economy of the CNMI.

"On our side, a message needs to be sent out to the community that tourist sites need to be protected and that vandalism of tourist sites cannot be tolerated because tourism is the lifeblood of the economy," he added.

Docomo marks 10 years of 'Be Seen, Be Safe' campaign

TAMUNING, Guam—Docomo Pacific's "Be Seen, Be Safe" glow stick Campaign reached its tenth year in 2016. The "Be Seen, Be Safe" campaign resumes annually in efforts to provide kids and parents on Guam and Saipan added safety, while trick-or-treating on Halloween night.

Docomo Pacific joins other community partners such as the Guam Police Department, Mobil Oil Guam Inc., Atkins Kroll Guam Inc., and Calvo's SelectCare in the handing out of glow sticks for children each year. This year 25,000 glow sticks will be dispersed.

Launched in 2006 on Guam, the campaign started as a means to keep children safe on Halloween night. Docomo Pacific partnered with the Guam Police Department to start this initiative, which expanded to Saipan a couple of years later. The initial amount of glow sticks given out totaled at 5,000. Over the years, that number matured to 25,000.

Commenting on the origins of the campaign, chief commercial officer at Docomo Pacific, Thomas Higa, states: The idea started out of my home. I would hand out glow sticks to the children in my neighborhood. Many parents thought, 'This is a great idea to keep our children safe.' So I considered that it would be a great campaign for Docomo Pacific (MCV at the time), to contribute to the safety of the kids of our island. It's our 10th year of keeping the children of Guam and Saipan safe on the roads and in the streets.

On where he sees this campaign headed in the years to come, Higa said: I see this project expanding. Anything that'll keep our children seen at night; that's what's important to us. We have thousands of kids on the street and not many street lights. They should be seen and be safe."

Distribution of glow sticks in Guam will continue until today, Oct. 31, at any of the following locations: (while supplies last): all Docomo Pacific locations; GPD: Agat, Hagatna, Dededo, Tamuning; Mobil: Yona, Ysengson, East Hagatna, Agat; Atkin-Krolls Toyota; and Calvo's SelectCare.

Distribution of glow sticks on Saipan will continue from until today, Oct. 31, at any of the following locations for Saipan: (while supplies last): Docomo Pacific, Atkin-Krolls Toyota, and Calvo's SelectCare. ***(Docomo Pacific)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-003

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO UPDATE CUC'S RULES AND REGULATIONS AND CUC'S POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for professional services to update the CUC Rules and Regulations and CUC's Policies and Procedures Manual.

The solicitation seeks responses from qualified entities from which CUC intends to select one consultant to negotiate the final scope of work and enter into a contract agreement that best fit CUC's consultancy requirements.

The scope of work and solicitation package will be emailed upon request, by the CUC Procurement and Supply Office from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except on government observed holidays. Prospective proponents for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement and Supply Division.

A pre-proposal conference will be conducted at the CUC Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building on **October 20, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. (ChST).** Immediately after the conference, proposers shall familiarize themselves with the current CUC Rules and Regulations and the CUC Policies and Procedures Manual prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC RFP-17-003 – Professional Services to Update CUC's Rules and Regulations and CUC's Policies and Procedures Manual"* to the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, P. O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **November 10, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competitive offerors.

All offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the offeror due to lack of information of understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award of a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offerors are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws. This bid and the ensuring contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI business license in compliance with the licensing laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of the contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on October 24, 2016,** to Manuel B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant, via email address at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANUEL B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the **Personnel Committee** meeting set for **Thursday, October 27, 2016, at 9:00 a.m.** is rescheduled to **Thursday, November 3, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.**

The **Operations Committee** will also meet on the **same day immediately right after** the Personnel Committee meeting. The committee meetings will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA*

I. **Preliminary Matters**
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call
   C. Adoption of Agenda
II. **Public Comments****
III. **Executive Session*****
   (Discuss and confer with the Legal Counsel on Personnel Matters)
IV. **Adjournment**

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA*

V. **Preliminary Matters**
   D. Call to Order
   E. Roll Call
   F. Adoption of Agenda
VI. **Public Comments****
VII. **Executive Session*****
   (Discuss and confer with the Legal Counsel on Operations Matters)
VIII. **Adjournment**

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda may be modified during the meeting.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Committee members may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Tel. (670) 664-2587 • Fax (670) 664-2571

BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Division of Historic Preservation, under the auspices of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, hereby give notice that the annual Historic Preservation Review Board meeting will be held on Thursday, November 3, 2016, at 8:30 a.m. to 4:00p.m., over at the Office on Aging Center's Conference Room, located across the Garapan Central Park.

Interested individuals are invited to attend.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARIES**
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Orientation of a New Board Member
   4. Adoption of Agenda
   5. Adoption of Minutes – March 19, 2016
II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
III. **OLD BUSINESS**
   1. HPO Regulation Update
   2. Staff Archaeologist Update
   3. Historian/Archival Researcher Update
   4. Other Old Business
IV. **New Business**
   1. Zip Line Project (Saipan Adventure Tour)
   2. Alter City Project Update (Tinian)
   3. Human Remains Policy
   4. Saipan Review and Compliance Update
   5. Rota Program Update
   6. Tinian Program Update
   7. HPO 2017 Local Budget Update
   8. HPO FY2015 & FY2016 HPF Grants Update
V. **OTHER MATTERS**
VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

/s/ Pedro A. Duenas
Chairman, CNMI HPO Review Board

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-004

Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Station Service Generator Sets at Power Plants 1 and 4

ADDENDUM NO. 1
Dated: October 24, 2016

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is hereby issuing the following amendment to CUC-RFP-17-004:

- **WAIVER OF RFP PACKAGE FEE:**

  The $200.00 fee payment requirement to obtain an RFP Package has been waived. *Registered Prospective Offerors that registered before October 24, 2016 will receive a full reimbursement by CUC. Please contact Marcela Tenorio via e-mail address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org for assistance in obtaining a reimbursement.*

/s/ GARY P. CAMACHO
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-004

Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Station Service Generator Sets at Power Plants 1 and 4

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced contractors, including their local authorized representatives for the Supply, Installation & Commissioning of one (1) each 750 kW Diesel Generating Set at CUC Power Plant No. 1, Lower Base and one (1) each 200 kW Diesel Generating Set at CUC Power Plant No. 4, Puerto Rico, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Contractor shall provide and pay for all labor, materials, tools, equipment, transportation, temporary construction of every nature, and all other services and facilities necessary to execute, complete and deliver the Diesel Generating Sets and work within the specified time frame.

CUC intends to select one proposer to negotiate the final scope of work and enter into a contract agreement that best fit CUC's station service power supply requirements at Power Plant No. 1 and 4.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at Power Plant Administration Office in Lower Base, Saipan on **October 27, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to Power Plant No. 1 and 4 facilities will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal, though it is not a mandatory requirement.

Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID.

One (1) original and Five (6) hard copies and 1 Compact Disc (CD) of the entire submission in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-17-004 – Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Station Service Generator Sets at Power plants 1 and 4"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on November 18, 2016.** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 31, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address - manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, Purchasing Assistant via email address - Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org and Venugopal Prabhakara, Power Generation APCM/PM via email address - venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

BECQ Brigade eyes Tank Beach

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be picking up trash at the Tank Beach in Kagman on Saturday, Nov. 5, 2016, at 8am.

If you would like to volunteer, meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at the Tank Beach parking lot at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a brigade T-shirt.

Last month's Fishing Base beach cleanup was successful with 40 volunteers from Hopwood Jr. High School, Saipan Southern High School, Northern Marianas College—Natural Resource Management Program, and other participating. Over 300 lbs of marine debris was removed from the beach and disposed of. The BECQ is looking forward to a repeat success on Saturday.

For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(BECQ)***

Greenstay Project is committed to helping the NMI community

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Greenstay Project showrooms are still up and open for those who are interested in purchasing a comfortable and a care-free house.

The second phase of the Greenstay Project showrooms are still up and open for those who are interested in purchasing a comfortable and a care-free house. The showrooms that are open for viewing is the 2-bedroom standard, 3-bedroom standard, and 4-bedroom deluxe houses.

All of the houses Greenstay offers come with integrated kitchen and bathroom and they are all move-in ready. People can choose the furniture for the houses and can also choose the color for the flooring, the outside wall, and the shingles for the roof.

The benefits of the house are that they are made of wood-plastic composite material to prevent termite infestation. The houses are also designed under seismic zone 4 to address the issue of earthquakes. Galvanized steel frame is also used to prevent the frame of the houses from rusting.

It has been a whole year since Typhoon Soudelor impacted Saipan in a way that forever changed the lives of Saipan's residents. Many still haven't fully recovered from the damage Soudelor left behind.

Skywalker Holdings Co. created the Greenstay Project because of the housing issues Saipan faced after the typhoon. Since then, the Greenstay sales department has entertained many interested clients looking for houses that are weatherproof, reliable, and eco-friendly.

For those who have any questions or concerns about Greenstay or the houses, operating hours are from Monday to Sunday 10am-6pm. They can either drop by at the Greenstay office, which is located at Island Commercial Building right across Shell Middle Road, email greenstay.cnmi@gmail.com, call (670) 233-8812, or Facebook @ CNMI Greenstay. ***(PR)***

Volunteers sought for AMP's 2nd Day of Service

The American Memorial Park is inviting the community to participate in the park's second Day of Service. Volunteers are needed to assist in a number of projects including weeding, raking, and picking up trash.

The park's second Day of Service will happen on Saturday, Nov. 5, 2016, from 7am to 10am. Sign up outside the American Memorial Park Visitor Center. Bring a water bottle, closed-toed shoes, hat and sunscreen.

To learn more about this event or other happenings at the park, contact Ranger Brooke Nevitt at 234-7207 x 2020 or email brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. ***(NPS)***

Family grief support group to meet on Nov. 3

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, Nov. 3, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

We offer understanding and hope to parents, siblings and grandparents who are grieving the loss of a child of any age, and from any cause. We provide a safe, confidential setting, in which to share our experiences, while respecting and supporting each other, and listening. The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive.

For more information, e-mail tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Donna Krum (783-1900). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. ***(TCF)***

Business

US economy grew at its strongest pace in 2 years

WASHINGTON (AP)—Don't expect much more from the U.S. economy this year - it may have already peaked.

Gross domestic product, the broadest measure of economic health, grew at annual rate of 2.9 percent in the July-September quarter, shaking off a lackluster first half and accelerating to its strongest growth in two years, the Commerce Department reported Friday. The improvement was powered by a rebound in exports and a decision by businesses to restock their shelves.

The latest figure was double the 1.4 percent rate in the second quarter. The details, however, point to signs that the pace is unlikely to last.

The rise in exports was fueled by a surge in shipments of soybeans to South America. That's probably not going to happen again. The strength in inventory rebuilding also looks to fade in coming quarters.

Moreover, consumer spending growth slowed from a breakneck pace in the second quarter. Business investment was barely positive, still trying to recover from sharp cutbacks in the energy industry after oil prices plunged. Home construction also contracted for a second quarter, although economists believe that setback will be temporary.

Gregory Daco, head of U.S. Macroeconomics at Oxford Economics, said the third-quarter results "may be as good as it gets in 2016." He forecasts slower growth of around 2 percent in the current October-December period.

"Going forward, we expect a modest expansion in economic activity, but we note the economy may be in a fragile equilibrium," Daco wrote in a research note.

Still, the better-than-expected GDP reading for the third quarter keeps the Federal Reserve on track to boost interest rates next month. Economists believe a rate hike at next week's meeting is unlikely so close to the U.S. presidential election.

Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist at Capital Economics, said that the report "confirms that the economic recovery has regained some of the momentum lost within the last year."

The Commerce Department report was the government's first look at third-quarter GDP. It will be subject to two revisions over the next two months. It represents one of the last major economic reports to be issued before American voters go to the polls on Nov. 8.

Democrats hailed the GDP rebound after three straight quarters of anemic growth averaging around 1 percent. But Republicans said the new figure did not change their view that the country's current policies need to be changed.

"Growth hasn't risen above 3 percent for a full year in any year of the Obama presidency," said Dan Kowalski, deputy policy director for the Trump campaign. "The single most important issue facing the American people is an economy that has failed to deliver jobs, incomes and opportunity."

GDP growth slumped into a pronounced slowdown late last year. Exporters were constrained by a rising dollar, which made their products more expensive on overseas markets. Businesses cut back on boosting inventories in the face of weaker sales.

Mobile money on the rise in Africa as millions get phones

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)—Ivan Kiryowa repeatedly checked the balance on his phone, nervous sweat on his cheeks, as he waited for money from a friend. Thirty minutes later, $150 had landed in his account and he sauntered into a hardware store, where he bought bags of cement.

"Mobile money is convenient for many of us who rely on our phones to pay bills and make transactions without having to go to the bank all the time," Kiryowa said. "Without it, I think we would have a lot more problems."

Mobile money has become a way of life for millions of Africans who use their phones to pay utility bills, settle loans and even bail out friends in distress. There were 84 million active mobile money accounts in Africa as of December, according to the London-based industry group GSMA. It says there were mobile money operations in 31 African countries.

In the East African capitals of Kampala and Nairobi, where the phenomenon is particularly strong, booths offering mobile money services dot the streets. Now, even taxes can be paid via mobile phone in Uganda, in a revolution that threatens commercial banks as more and more people can afford handheld devices.

"When people come here to make mobile transactions, in effect this is their bank," said Charles Onyait, a mobile money agent in Kampala, the Ugandan capital. "The most important thing, of course, is the convenience of mobile money."

Only about 34 percent of adults in Africa have a traditional bank account, according to World Bank data. Analysts say mobile money is widening financial inclusion by tapping into unbanked Africans, especially in rural areas where banking facilities are few and illiteracy tends to be high.

The value of mobile money transactions in sub-Saharan Africa reached $655 million in 2014 and could surpass $1.3 billion by 2019, according to data by the consulting firm Frost & Sullivan.

This year, mobile money services have become international. In January, the London-based remittance service company WorldRemit and the South African telecom giant MTN Group announced a global partnership agreement that allows WorldRemit customers to send money instantly to MTN mobile money wallets in Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia, adding to the growing list of destinations where such transfers can be possible.

At the time, Serigne Dioum, the head of mobile financial services for MTN Group, said other countries would follow soon.

"For us this is a hugely important step, both for the remittances industry and the mobile money industry," said Alix Murphy, an analyst with WorldRemit. "With an agent-based model, there is always the commission for the agent whenever they are taking the cash and processing it. So we eliminate all of that."

MTN has more than 36 million mobile money subscribers in Africa. Millions more use providers such as Kenya's Safaricom, whose M-Pesa platform, launched in 2007, is now a global leader in mobile money services. In September 2013, M-Pesa reported deposits worth over $7 billion.

In Uganda, mobile money has overtaken cash pick-up and bank deposits as the preferred method to receive money, according to WorldRemit.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-RFP-17-006

MAUI SHAFT WELLS REHABILITATION PROJECT, SAIPAN, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to develop the method and perform the construction work to remove the cave in soil material in the Maui 4 Shaft Well tunnel and rehabilitate the existing buildings, platforms, shaft, electrical components, elevator system and all other items listed in the scope of work for the Maui 1 and 4 shaft wells. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC. The duration of the contract is **375 calendar days** from date of award.

This project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the above mentioned funding agencies.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **November 8, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to the Maui Shaft Wells facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-17-006 –Maui Shaft Wells Rehabilitation Project"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **November 29, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 10, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, CUC Water-Wastewater Jr. Engineer via email address yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-17-008

BULK CHLORINE STORAGE FACILITY

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the construction of a facility for the bulk storage of the CUC's chlorine supply in Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of a building and site improvements to adequately store and secure chlorine gas cylinders, including all appurtenances and features necessary to comply with applicable standards, regulations and codes. The storage facility includes a chlorine storage area, an operator area to store personal protective equipment and an electrical/mechanical room, emergency showers, eye washing stations, chlorine gas scrubber equipment, ventilation system, fire protection, alarm systems and emergency power.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **270 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Justen Landan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **November 3, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-17-008, Bulk Chlorine Storage Facility Project"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 21, 2016**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. *Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.*

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

All responses to this Invitation for should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 7, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, Water/Wastewater Chief Engineer via email address john.riegel@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, Jr.
Purchasing Officer

Nation

Clinton calls FBI's actions ahead of vote 'deeply troubling'

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Hillary Clinton is lashing out at the FBI's handling of a new email review, leading a chorus of Democratic leaders who declared the bureau's actions just days before the election "unprecedented" and "deeply troubling." Emboldened Republican rival Donald Trump seized on the reignited email controversy, hoping to raise new doubts about Clinton's trustworthiness.

Rallying supporters in Florida on Saturday, Clinton pressed FBI Director James Comey to put out the "full and complete facts" about the review into a cache of recently discovered emails. Clinton backers panned Comey's letter to Congress about the new emails as severely lacking crucial details.

AP

In this Oct. 28, 2016 file photo, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks with senior aide Huma Abedin aboard her campaign plane at Westchester County Airport in White Plains.

"It is pretty strange to put something like that out with such little information right before an election," Clinton said. She accused Trump of using the issue to confuse and mislead voters in the final leg of the campaign for the Nov. 8 election.

The controversy over Clinton's email practices at the State Department has dogged her for more than a year. The former secretary of state has often been reluctant to weigh in on the matter—and defensive when she's been pushed to do so.

But Clinton's approach to this latest flare-up is markedly different, underscoring worries that the matter could damage her standing with voters in the election's final days. Clinton advisers have been rallying Democratic lawmakers and other supporters to her defense, including members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

On Saturday, Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta said there was "no evidence of wrongdoing" in the new email review and "no indication this is even about Hillary." But Comey, who enraged Republicans in the summer when he announced the FBI would not prosecute Clinton for her loose handling of official email, said the new trove appeared to be "pertinent" to the Clinton email investigation. He did not explain how.

A government official told The Associated Press on Saturday that the Justice Department had advised the FBI against telling Congress about the new developments in the Clinton investigation because of the potential fallout so close to the election. The official was not authorized to speak publicly about the matter and discussed it on condition of anonymity.

Justice officials concluded the letter would be inconsistent with department policy that directs against investigative actions that could be seen as affecting an election or helping a particular candidate, the official said.

Landing with a thud, the email issue again threatened to undermine an advantage built by Clinton, the Democratic nominee, over Trump and raised the possibility that the Republican might be able to seize late momentum.

Trump told a crowd in Goldwen, Colorado, the FBI's review of Clinton email practices raises "everybody's deepest hope that justice, as last, can be properly delivered." His crowd cheered Clinton's email woes, which Trump has taken to calling the biggest political scandal since Watergate.

The FBI is looking into whether there was classified information on a device belonging to Anthony Weiner, the disgraced ex-congressman who is separated from longtime Clinton aide Huma Abedin. Comey, in his letter to Congress on Friday, said the FBI had recently come upon new emails while pursuing an unrelated case and was reviewing whether they were classified.

A person familiar with the investigation, who lacked authority to discuss the matter publicly and insisted on anonymity, said the device that appears to be at the center of the new review was not a computer Weiner shared with Abedin.

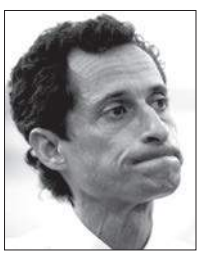
As a result, it was not a device searched for work-related emails at the time of the initial investigation. The person said "this is news to (Abedin)" that her emails would be on a computer belonging to her husband.

Trump mused aloud during his rally about whether Clinton was "going to keep Huma," adding that Abedin has "been a problem." He hurled insults at Weiner, warning again that the former congressman posed a national security risk because of his access to information through his estranged wife. Abedin, a close Clinton confidant who is a near constant presence in the campaign, was not traveling with Clinton on Saturday.

Weiner's tale of self-destruction rocks race for president

NEW YORK (AP)—Once a hard-charging young congressman, Anthony Weiner lost his career and his marriage to a habit of trading sexually explicit messages that he couldn't shake—a lurid tale of personal self-destruction that's suddenly found its way into the race for president.

Weiner is separated from Huma Abedin, the vice chairwoman of Hillary Clinton's campaign and one of the Democratic nominee's closest aides. It's the federal investigation into his sexting habits that is the "unrelated case" that led the FBI to a new batch of emails, which agency director James Comey told Congress on Friday may be "pertinent to our investigation" into Clinton's use of a private email server as secretary of state.



Weiner

And that has once again cast a spotlight on Weiner, one-time rising Democratic Party star whose very name has become a punchline.

Weiner was forced to resign his seat in Congress in 2011, after accidentally posting a picture of himself in his underwear—a private message intended for a woman who was not his wife—to his Twitter account.

Abedin stood by him, and he had the audacity to ask for the voters' forgiveness and run for mayor two years later. He spent time atop the polls, until fresh evidence emerged that he hadn't given up his sexting habit and destroyed his campaign.

When Weiner was caught again sending racy messages last summer, Abedin left him. Federal investigators started a probe in September into whether he had sexted with a 15-year-old girl.

"I am filled with regret and heartbroken for those I have hurt," Weiner said after he and Abedin separated, lamenting what he called his "terrible judgment."

The former congressman did not respond to repeated requests for comment Saturday, as the impact of his sexting extended far beyond his household.

Clinton, who has referred to Abedin as a "second daughter," lashed out Saturday at the FBI's handling of a new email review that arrived as unexpectedly as did the revelation that Weiner was involved.

Supreme Court to hear case of transgender bathroom policy

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court will take up transgender rights for the first time in the case of a Virginia school board that wants to prevent a transgender teenager from using the boys' bathroom at his high school.

The justices said Friday they will hear the appeal from the Gloucester County school board sometime next year. The high court's order means that student Gavin Grimm will not be able to use the boys' bathroom in the meantime.

The court could use the case to resolve similar disputes across the country, said Shannon Minter, legal director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights. "Obviously, for transgender people, the stakes of this case are incredibly high. Whatever the court rules in Grimm may ensure that transgender people are accepted and included as equal members of our society, or it may relegate them to outsiders for decades to come," Minter said.

A lower court had ordered the school board to accommodate Grimm, but the justices in August put that order on hold while they considered whether to hear the appeal.

Grimm, a 17-year-old high school senior, was born female but identifies as male. He was allowed to use the boys' restroom at his high school for several weeks in 2014. But after some parents complained, the school board adopted a policy requiring students to use either the restroom that corresponds with their biological gender or a private, single-stall restroom. Grimm is backed by the Obama administration in his argument that the policy violates Title IX, a federal law that bars sex discrimination in schools.

"I never thought that my restroom use would ever turn into any kind of national debate," Grimm said in a statement issued after the court announced it will hear his case. "The only thing I ever asked for was the right to be treated like everyone else. While I'm disappointed that I will have to spend my final school year being singled out and treated differently from every other guy, I will do everything I can to make sure that other transgender students don't have to go through the same experience."

ACROSS THE NATION

Pieces flew thousands of feet from Chicago plane on fire

CHICAGO (AP)—Engine pieces from an American Airlines plane that caught fire Friday on a runway at Chicago's O'Hare airport were found thousands of feet away, a federal investigator said. Lorenda Ward, a National Transportation Safety Board senior investigator, confirmed Saturday that the fire was caused by engine failure. What caused the engine to fail has not yet been determined, she said at a press conference. She says the fire started in a pool of fuel under the right wing of the Boeing 767. One piece of General Electric engine was found nearly 3,000 feet away at a UPS warehouse. Another was found about 1,500 feet away but on airport property. Pilots aborted the takeoff of American Airlines Flight 383 to Miami. All 161 passengers and nine crew safely evacuated as smoke billowed into the air. Twenty people were taken to the hospital with injuries mainly from the evacuation, officials said. They had all been released by late Saturday, Ward said.

Woman sought in dust-up at Donald Trump's Hollywood star

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles police are looking for a Donald Trump supporter who was harassed and fell to the ground as she apparently protected the presidential candidate's Hollywood Walk of Fame star. A video uploaded to YouTube Thursday shows the woman displaying pro-Trump signs complaining about immigrants and President Barack Obama, The Los Angeles Times reported, (http://lat.ms/2elP7EV). A man bumps against her, she pushes back and falls to the ground, staying there as the crowd jeers. The video prompted angry calls to police asking why they didn't intervene. LAPD Officer Tony Im said Friday that the woman incited the crowd with racial slurs and police at the scene "kept the peace."

Asia

PH leader Duterte makes a promise to stop cursing

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The foul-mouthed Philippine president, who once called the pope a "son of a bitch" and told Barack Obama to "go to hell," says he has promised to God he won't spew expletives again.

President Rodrigo Duterte's profanities have become his trademark, especially when threatening to kill drug dealers as part of his war on illegal drugs that has left thousands dead since he took office at the end of June.

Duterte made the stunning pledge on arrival in his southern hometown of Davao city late Thursday from a trip to Japan.

While flying home, he said he was looking at the sky while everyone was sound asleep, some snoring, and he heard a voice that said "'if you don't stop epithets, I will bring this plane down now."

"And I said, 'Who is this?' So, of course, 'it's God,'" he said.

"So, I promise God to ... not express slang, cuss words and everything. So you guys hear me right always because (a) promise to God is a promise to the Filipino people."

Duterte's vow was met with applause, but he cautioned: "Don't clap too much or else this may get derailed."

He shocked the dominant Roman Catholics last year when he fired off an expletive while expressing his disgust over a monstrous traffic jam that trapped him while Pope Francis was visiting Manila. "I wanted to call. 'Pope, you son of a bitch, go home.' Don't visit here anymore," he told a mob of supporters, some of whom laughed.

He later apologized after Filipino bishops expressed shock and outrage.

It's not certain if the 71-year-old president, who has been compared to U.S. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump because of his brash language, can keep his promise. Duterte made a similar pledge in June when it became evident that he had won the May 9 presidential elections overwhelmingly on a pledge to end crimes, especially illegal drugs and corruption.

AP

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte speaks to journalists before getting aboard a coast guard ship at a Japan Coast Guard base in Yokohama, Thursday, Oct. 27, 2016.

He said then that he was enjoying his last moments as a "rude person" because "when I become president, when I take my oath of office ... that will be a different story. There will be a metamorphosis."

It didn't take long for Duterte to break the promise.

He has repeatedly leveled SOB-laced tirades against Obama, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, a few outspoken opposition politicians and human rights advocates, while heaping praises on Chinese and Russian leaders.

There were no expletives in his late Thursday speech, but Duterte still sounded mean toward critics.

When asked for his message for a Filipino beauty queen who won the recent Miss International pageant, Duterte said he was proud. "Many Filipinas are beautiful, but all of you there in the human rights commission are ugly."

Asked if the days of his cursing the U.S. and the EU are over, Duterte didn't answer clearly.

"I do not want anybody reading my mind because I couldn't make a smart move anymore. But it's all calibrated, it's all about timing," Duterte said.

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman Mark Toner said that Duterte was "certainly entitled to his views about his own relationship with the supreme being," but would not comment on whether it would make conversation easier with the Philippine leader.

ASIAN BRIEFS

S. Korean protesters call for president to step down

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Thousands of South Koreans took to the streets of the capital on Saturday calling for increasingly unpopular President Park Geun-hye to step down over allegations that she let an old friend, the daughter of a religious cult leader, interfere in important state affairs. The evening protest came after Park ordered 10 of her senior secretaries to resign over a scandal that is likely to deepen the president's lame duck status ahead of next year's election. Holding candles and signs reading "Who's the real president?" and "Park Geun-hye step down," the protesters marched through downtown Seoul after holding a candlelight vigil near City Hall. Police estimated that about 12,000 people turned out for the biggest anti-government demonstration in Seoul in months.

PH: China still guarding shoal but Filipinos back

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine defense chief says aerial surveillance shows Chinese coast guard ships are still guarding a disputed shoal but Filipinos were seen fishing there "unmolested" for the first time in years. Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said Sunday the return of Filipino fishermen to Scarborough Shoal was "a most welcome development." Lorenzana tells The Associated Press a navy plane spotted four Chinese coast guard ships, contradicting an initial report that the Chinese have left. Chinese ships had driven away Filipino fishermen since they took control of the shoal in 2012 after a tense standoff with Philippine vessels. China granted access to the shoal after President Rodrigo Duterte reached out to Beijing, meeting Chinese President Xi Jinping and other leaders this month.

2 Indian soldiers killed along disputed Kashmir frontier

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Two Indian soldiers have been killed in fighting with Pakistani soldiers and suspected militants along the volatile frontier in Indian-controlled Kashmir, officials said Saturday. An army officer said militants overnight ambushed an Indian army patrol, killing one, while Pakistani soldiers provided covering fire near the Machil sector along the Line of Control dividing the disputed region between India and Pakistan. The officer, speaking on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to speak to media, said that militants crossed over from Pakistani-controlled Kashmir while taking advantage of rugged terrain and thick foliage. He said Indian soldiers retaliated and killed an insurgent in what he described as "face-to-face combat." He said the militants "mutilated" the body of the Indian soldier before fleeing to the Pakistani side.

Brick workers enslaved for life as Afghan warlords profit

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Every day that Dil Agha works at his backbreaking job at a brick kiln on the outskirts of Afghanistan's capital Kabul, from before sunrise to well after sunset, he digs himself deeper into debt.

He knows he will never be able to pay back what he owes to the kiln owner who lent him a few thousand dollars for a family emergency, and that when he dies, his children will inherit the burden that will ensure his family remains enslaved for generations.

He is one of hundreds of people that the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission calls the "slaves of the 21st century." They toil as indentured laborers at brick kilns that make millions of dollars a year for their owners. The law is powerless to help them and a government official says many in the government are too fearful to speak out.

Rafiullah Baidar, the spokesman for the AIHRC said families like Dil Agha's have been stripped of their human rights—to education, health care, and decent working conditions, to name only a few.

"All those people working in the brick kilns are the slaves of the 21st Century," he said. "They are like prisoners; this horrible situation is a complete violation of their human rights."

For the past 15 years, Afghanistan has been the recipient of billions of dollars in aid, most from the United States, to fight an insurgency and rebuild the country after decades of conflict. The country's leaders were in Brussels this month to secure pledges of another $15 billion through to 2020. And yet the economy is not growing, the war is suspended in stalemate, and corruption is rampant.

For people like Dil Agha—who is 23 years old with a wife and three children—the government appears incapable of creating jobs to help them build normal lives.

Afghanistan is one of the poorest countries in the world, with a huge wealth divide: at the top are billionaires, at the very bottom are people like those working at the kiln in the Deh Sabz district, on Kabul's eastern outskirts.

Here, most of the workers are from poor villages in the eastern province of Nangarhar. The kiln boss, also from Nangarhar, lent them money after visiting the village and offering financial help to anyone who needed it.

People working here say the kiln boss then offered them jobs during the warm-weather months, April to October, to repay their loans. The pay depends on productivity but workers say it ranges from 1000-1500 afghanis ($15-$23) per day.

US calls on China to cut coal imports propping up N. Korea

BEIJING (AP)—A senior U.S. official urged China on Saturday to work with the U.S. to close a loophole on North Korean coal imports that Washington believes has been critical to propping up the isolated country's finances.

Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in Beijing ahead of talks with Chinese officials that Chinese coal imports from North Korea contributed to $1 billion in revenue for Pyongyang last year. The U.S. has been seeking new U.N. sanctions to stymie North Korea's economy and force leader Kim Jong Un into abandoning his nuclear and missile programs.

North Korea has conducted two nuclear tests and 24 missile tests this year, demonstrating its progress toward its stated goal of being able to strike the U.S. with nuclear-tipped weapons.

China remains the North's only ally and a vital source of hard currency the regime needs for weapons development. An estimated 90 percent of North Korea's trade passes through China.

Beijing agreed in April to halt coal and mineral imports as part of new U.N. sanctions against the North, but carved out a humanitarian exemption, saying it would still buy coal if the sales are proven to support the livelihood of the North Korean people.

Blinken told reporters on Saturday that China's imports have in fact gone up.

"Their approach has been that the trade in coal is allowed unless you can demonstrate that it goes to the weapons program," Blinken said, calling it a reversal of the premise of the humanitarian clause.

Although the U.S. and China share a commitment to denuclearizing North Korea, efforts to cooperate have been strained this year by South Korea's decision to deploy an advanced U.S. missile defense system, the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, to detect incoming strikes from the North. The move deeply angered China, which says the radars have a secondary motive of allowing the U.S. to peer deep into Chinese territory and undermine its security.

Blinken reiterated Saturday that the anti-missile system is not directed at China, but raised the possibility of further moves, saying the THAAD deployment is "the latest but not the last defensive step that we would take" to counter threats from North Korea.

World

Syrian airstrikes on Aleppo amid intense clashes

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian government forces launched a counteroffensive Saturday under the cover of airstrikes in an attempt to regain control of areas they had lost to insurgents the day before in the northern city of Aleppo, activists and state media said.

Meanwhile, insurgents launched a fresh offensive on the city, a day after embarking on a broad ground attack aimed at breaking a weeks-long government siege on the eastern rebel-held neighborhoods of Syria's largest city.

The insurgents were able to capture much of the western neighborhood of Assad where much of Saturday's fighting was concentrated, according to the Syrian army and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The Observatory said the new offensive by Syrian troops and their allies went under the cover of Russian and Syrian airstrikes but government forces did not succeed in regaining control of areas they lost. The group said the fighting and airstrikes are mostly on Aleppo's western and southern edges.

AP

This still image taken from drone footage, posted online by the communications arm of Ahrar al-Sham militant group, purports to show a blast on the ground, apparently the result of an airstrike, in an Assad neighborhood of Aleppo, Syria.

The Syrian army command said troops and their allies are pounding insurgent positions with artillery shells and rockets adding that "all kinds of weapons" are being used in the fighting in the Assad neighborhood.

The Aleppo Media Center, an activist collective, reported airstrikes and artillery shelling of areas near Aleppo. The AMC and another activist collective, the Local Coordination Committees, said rebels entered the village of Minian west of Aleppo Saturday afternoon after intense fighting with government forces.

Later Saturday, the rebels said they launched an attack on the Zahraa neighborhood in western Aleppo to try and capture it from government forces. The attack began with a massive explosion that struck government positions on the front line, said Yasser al-Yousef of the Nour el-Din el-Zinki group, a main faction in Aleppo.

A reporter inside the city for the Lebanon-based Al-Mayadeen TV channel confirmed that the rebels have attacked the Zahraa neighborhood. As he spoke from the roof of a building, sounds of heavy exchange of gunfire could be heard in the background.

The Syrian army said troops were repelling the attack on Zahraa. It said the offensive began when the insurgents detonated a vehicle and shelled the area.

The Observatory said the fighting was continuing intensely after sunset, saying that government forces detonated explosives and bombs they planted earlier in the area in an attempt to repel the offensive on Zahraa.

Syrian state media said rebels shelled government-held western neighborhoods of Aleppo on Saturday morning wounding at least 10 people, including a young girl.

Rebel shelling of Aleppo on Friday killed 15 and wounded more than 100.

On Friday, insurgents including members of Fatah al-Sham and the ultraconservative Ajnad al-Sham and Ahrar al-Sham militias took advantage of cloudy and rainy weather to attack government positions. On Saturday the weather was better, according to residents.

"There are ongoing clashes," said opposition activist Baraa al-Halaby by telephone from besieged east Aleppo, adding that the fighting is far from them but explosions could be clearly heard in the city.

The Observatory said that since Friday some 30 troops and members of Lebanon's Hezbollah group were killed in the Aleppo fighting.

Shiite militias join the battle as Iraqis push toward Mosul

SHURA, Iraq (AP)—State-sanctioned Shiite militias joined Iraq's Mosul offensive on Saturday with a pre-dawn assault to the west, where they hope to complete the encirclement of the Islamic State-held city and sever supply lines from neighboring Syria.

Other Iraqi forces aided by U.S.-led airstrikes and heavy artillery meanwhile drove IS from the town of Shura, south of Mosul, where the militants had rounded up civilians to be used as human shields.

The twin thrusts come nearly two weeks into the offensive to retake Iraq's second largest city, but most of the fighting is still taking place in towns and villages far from its outskirts, and the entire operation is expected to take weeks, if not months.

The involvement of the Iranian-backed Shiite militias has raised concerns that the battle for Mosul, a Sunni-majority city, could aggravate sectarian tensions. Rights groups have accused the militias of abuses against civilians in other Sunni areas retaken from IS, accusations the militia leaders deny.

The umbrella group for the militias, known as the Popular Mobilization Units, says they will not enter Mosul itself and will instead focus on retaking Tal Afar, a town to the west that had a Shiite majority before it fell to IS in 2014.

Ahmed al-Assadi, a spokesman for the group, told reporters in Baghdad that the militias had retaken 10 villages since the start of the pre-dawn operation. But there was likely still some fighting underway, and he said forces were removing explosive booby-traps left by IS to slow their advance.

Jaafar al-Husseini, a spokesman for the Hezbollah Brigades, said his group and the other militias had advanced 4 miles (7 kilometers) toward Tal Afar and used anti-tank missiles to destroy three suicide car bombs that were heading toward them.

He said the U.S.-led coalition, which is providing airstrikes and ground support to the Iraqi military and Kurdish forces known as the peshmerga, is not playing any role in the Shiite militias' advance. He said Iranian advisers and Iraqi aircraft were helping them.

Many of the militias were originally formed after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion to battle American forces and Sunni insurgents. They were mobilized again and endorsed by the state when IS swept through northern and central Iraq in 2014.

WORLD BRIEFS

Powerful earthquake rattles central, southern Italy

ROME (AP)—A powerful earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.6 has rocked central and southern Italy, sending already quake-damaged buildings crumbling after a week of temblors that have left thousands homeless. There were no immediate reports of injuries or death. Residents already rattled by a constant trembling of the earth rushed into piazzas and streets after being roused from bed by Sunday's 7:40 a.m. quake. Nuns rushed out of their church in Norcia as the clock tower appeared about to crumble. The European-Mediterranean Seismological Center put the magnitude at 6.6 or 6.5 with an epicenter 132 kilometers northeast of Rome and 67 kilometers east of Perugia, near the epicenter of last week's temblors. The U.S. Geological Survey put the magnitude at 6.6.Italita The German Research Centre for Geosciences put the magnitude at 6.5 and said it had a depth of 10 kilometers, a relatively shallow quake near the surface but in the norm for the quake-prone Apennine Mountain region.

Soyuz space capsule returns to Earth

MOSCOW (AP)—A Russian Soyuz space capsule has landed in Kazakhstan, bringing back three astronauts from the United States, Japan and Russia back to Earth from a 115-day mission aboard the International Space Station. The landing took place Sunday morning near Dzhezkazgan on the treeless Central Asian steppes. Kate Rubins of NASA, Japan's Takuya Onisihi and Anatoly Ivanishin of Russia were removed from the capsule and sat on the steppes still in their capsule seats while they readjusted to the forces of gravity after nearly four months in weightless conditions, then were taken to a nearby medical tent for initial examination. Andrei Borisenko and Sergey Ryzhykov of Russia and NASA astronaut Robert Shane Kimbrough remain aboard the space station. They arrived on Oct. 22 after a two-day voyage. The trip back to Earth was much quicker for the three returnees on Sunday, about 3 ½ hours from undocking until landing. The capsule landed as scheduled and was closely tracked by helicopters as it wafted through partly cloudy skies under a parachute marked in red and white concentric circles. The craft landed upright, which made the extraction of the astronauts quicker than when capsules land on their sides.

Child of 'Britain's Schindler' appeals for help for refugees

LONDON (AP)—The daughter of a stockbroker nicknamed 'Britain's Schindler' for saving Jewish children from the Nazis appealed Saturday for the child refugees of today to be treated with similar compassion.

Barbara Winton's late father, Nicholas, rescued more than 650 Czechoslovakian children, most of them Jewish, by putting them on trains to the U.K. and helping them escape Nazi-occupied Europe on the eve of World War II.

In a letter posted on the website of the grassroots aid group Help Refugees, Winton drew a parallel between those children and a new generation fleeing war and poverty in Africa and the Middle East.

"Even at a time when city evacuations were being planned for British children, homes were found for these vulnerable young refugees," she said of the Czech children resettled during the late 1930s. "Now, 77 years later, vulnerable young refugees again seek the kindness and welcome that British people previously offered."

Britain is under pressure to accept young refugees from the Middle East and Africa after the closure of a large migrant camp in the French city of Calais, known as "the jungle." But there has been resistance to the idea, particularly after the vote to leave the European Union, which was fueled by public unease with growing immigration.

"Those who have travelled across Europe to Calais, to escape the life-threatening dangers of their home country, are hoping desperately to find the sanctuary their parents dared to believe Britain would once again offer," Winton wrote.

Nicholas Winton was a 29-year-old London stockbroker in December 1938 when a friend asked him to go to Prague to help in the refugee camps. He decided to do more after seeing that the children of those considered enemies of the Nazis, who had annexed part of western Czechoslovakia, were not being cared for.

When Winton returned home, he set to work by taking letterhead from the British Committee for Refugees from Czechoslovakia, then typing underneath the words "Children's Section."

Focus

Talc verdict winner:

Money can't make up for lost health

By JIM SALTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. LOUIS (AP)—When Deborah Giannecchini was diagnosed with stage 4 ovarian cancer four years ago, it didn't make sense. She had no family history, nor did she seem a high risk.

But months later, when her daughter saw a TV ad for a law firm asking ovarian cancer victims who used talcum powder to come forward, Giannecchini realized a possible link: She had been using Johnson & Johnson's baby powder for most of her life.

"I used it for 45 years, from age 15," Giannecchini, now 63, said Friday. "I was still using it."

On Thursday, a St. Louis jury awarded more than $70 million to Giannecchini, of Modesto, California, wrapping up a monthlong trial. It was the third big verdict awarded by a St. Louis jury against Johnson & Johnson in ovarian cancer lawsuits this year. Combined, the three awards amount to nearly $200 million.

Giannecchini said she was happy with the verdict, but it doesn't make up for the cancer fight and ongoing health problems caused by chemotherapy.

"There's not enough money in the world to pay for fighting the cancer," she said at a news conference arranged by her lawyers.

AP
Deborah Giannecchini, of Modesto, Cailf., poses for a photo Friday, Oct. 28, 2016, in St. Louis.

A spokeswoman for Johnson & Johnson said in a statement that while the company sympathizes with women and their families impacted by ovarian cancer, it will appeal the latest verdict "because we are guided by the science, which supports the safety of Johnson's Baby Powder."

About 2,000 women nationwide have filed similar suits over concerns about health damage caused by extended talcum powder use. Lawyers are reviewing many additional cases, many of them generated by television ads by law firms.

In February, a St. Louis jury awarded $72 million to relatives of an Alabama woman who died of ovarian cancer. Another jury awarded $55 million in May to a South Dakota survivor of the disease.

But two cases in New Jersey were thrown out by a judge who said there wasn't reliable evidence that talc leads to ovarian cancer, an often fatal but relatively rare form of cancer.

Ovarian cancer accounts for about 22,000 of the 1.7 million new cases of cancer expected to be diagnosed in the U.S. this year. Factors known to increase a women's risk of ovarian cancer include age, obesity, use of estrogen therapy after menopause, not having any children, certain genetic mutations and personal or family history of breast or ovarian cancer.

Talc is a mineral that is mined from deposits around the world, including the U.S. The softest of minerals, it's crushed into a white powder. It's been widely used in cosmetics and other personal care products to absorb moisture since at least 1894, when Johnson & Johnson's baby powder was launched. But it's mainly used in a variety of other products, including paint and plastics.

Much research has found no link or a weak one between ovarian cancer and using baby powder for feminine hygiene, and most major health groups have declared talc harmless. Still, the International Agency for Research on Cancer classifies genital use of talc as "possibly carcinogenic."

Attorneys with Onder, Shelton, O'Leary & Peterson, the firm that handled all three St. Louis cases, cited other research that began connecting talcum powder to ovarian cancer in the 1970s. They cite case studies showing that women who regularly use talc on their genital area face up to a 40 percent higher risk of developing ovarian cancer.

The firm has also accused Johnson & Johnson of marketing toward overweight women, blacks and Hispanics—the very same women most at-risk for ovarian cancer.

Wylie Blair, an attorney for Giannecchini, said the firm is working with about 1,700 additional plaintiffs. Another trial is scheduled for February.

Blair said there has been no talk with Johnson & Johnson concerning a class-action settlement.

"Acknowledging that a seminal product that everybody identifies with the company has been causing a horrible disease for all these years is going to be a tough pill to swallow for them," Blair said.

Giannecchini said that as of now there is no evidence of cancer, but she won't know for years if she is free of the disease.

"One day at a time," she said. "Just stay hopeful."

Does baby powder cause cancer? Another jury says yes.

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—For the third time, Johnson & Johnson has been hit with a multimillion-dollar jury verdict over whether the talc in its iconic baby powder causes ovarian cancer when applied regularly for feminine hygiene.

Late Thursday, a St. Louis jury awarded $70.1 million to Deborah Giannecchini of Modesto, California, who was diagnosed with advanced ovarian cancer in 2012. Giannecchini, then 59, said she had used Johnson's Baby Powder for more than 40 years to keep her genital area dry, as many women do. She blamed it for her cancer and accused J&J of negligence.

Two other jury trials in St. Louis reached similar outcomes earlier this year, awarding the plaintiffs $72 million and $55 million.

But in J&J's home state of New Jersey a judge recently threw out two other cases, ruling there wasn't reliable evidence talc causes ovarian cancer, a relatively rare disease.

Johnson & Johnson says its product is safe, and it is appealing all three losses. And investors don't seem worried that J&J is in financial trouble, even though the company faces an estimated 2,000 similar lawsuits. J&J shares fell 0.3 percent Friday, about the same as the broader stock market, to close at $115.33.

The next trial is set to start in January, also in St. Louis.

Here's what experts say about talc and cancer.

WHAT IS TALC?

Talc is a mineral that is mined from deposits around the world, including the U.S. The softest of minerals, it's crushed into a white powder. It's been widely used in cosmetics and other personal care products to absorb moisture since at least 1894, when Johnson & Johnson's Baby Powder was launched. But it's mainly used in a variety of other products, including paint and plastics.

DOES IT CAUSE OVARIAN CANCER?

Like many questions in science, there's no definitive answer. Finding the cause of cancer is difficult. It would be unethical to do the best kind of study, asking a group of women to use talcum powder on their genitals and wait to see if it causes cancer, while comparing them to a group who didn't use it.

AP
In this April 19, 2010, file photo, Johnson's baby powder is squeezed from its container in Philadelphia.

While ovarian cancer is often fatal, it's relatively rare. It accounts for only about 22,000 of the 1.7 million new cases of cancer expected to be diagnosed in the United States this year.

Factors that are known to increase a women's risk of ovarian cancer include age, obesity, use of estrogen therapy after menopause, not having any children, certain genetic mutations and personal or family history of breast or ovarian cancer.

WHAT RESEARCH SHOWS

The biggest studies have found no link between talcum powder applied to the genitals and ovarian cancer. But about two dozen smaller studies over three decades have mostly found a modest connection—a 20 percent to 40 percent increased risk among talc users.

However, that doesn't mean talc causes cancer. Several factors make that unlikely, and there's no proof talc, which doesn't interact with chemicals or cells, can travel up the reproductive tract, enter the ovaries and then trigger cancer.

One large study published in June that followed 51,000 sisters of breast cancer patients found genital talc users had a reduced risk of ovarian cancer, 27 percent lower than in nonusers. An analysis of two huge, long-running U.S. studies, the Women's Health Initiative and the Nurses' Health Study, showed no increased risk of ovarian cancer in talc users.

WHAT EXPERTS SAY

If there were a true link, Dr. Hal C. Lawrence III says large studies that tracked women's health for years would have verified results of the smaller ones.

"Lord knows, with the amount of powder that's been applied to babies' bottoms, we would've seen something," if talc caused cancer, said Lawrence, vice president of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

The National Cancer Institute's Dr. Nicolas Wentzensen says the federal agency's position is that there's not a clear connection.

"It is very hard to establish causal relationships," he said, adding, "A lot of ovarian cancers occur in women who have never used talc, and many women have used talc and not gotten ovarian cancer."

Health & Fitness

Task force: Too many moms stop breast-feeding too soon and doctors should change that

By KAREN KAPLAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Too many mothers stop breast-feeding their babies too soon, and a panel of experts says doctors, nurses and other health professionals should do more to change that.

In light of the "convincing evidence that breast-feeding provides substantial health benefits for children," primary care providers should discuss breast-feeding with women when they are pregnant, when they are in the hospital to give birth, and after they have gone home with their newborns, according to new guidelines from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force.

The government's Healthy People 2020 goals aim to have 81.9 percent of new mothers try nursing their infants, with 60.6 percent continuing to do so for six months and 34.1 percent sticking with it for a full year. In reality, while 80 percent of new mothers initiate breast-feeding, only 51.4 percent are still nursing after six months and 29.2 percent nurse for a full year.

To shrink that gap, the panel says health care providers should start encouraging women to breast-feed even before their babies are born. After delivery, they should offer one-on-one counseling to help new mothers master the mechanics of nursing — something that can take a few days or weeks. If mothers need a little boost or some reassurance, doctors, nurses and lactation consultants should step in and offer "psychological support."

However, if mothers decide that breast-feeding is not for them, clinicians should respect that choice, the panel says.

The task force, a group of experts appointed by the Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, came up with this advice after evaluating dozens of medical studies about the pros and cons of breast-feeding. They concluded "with moderate certainty" that efforts to encourage breast-feeding provide "a moderate net benefit for women and their children."

The upside of breast-feeding is greatest for babies. Studies show that babies who nurse are less likely to get ear infections, asthma, gastrointestinal infections and rashes. As they get older, children who were breast-fed are less likely to become obese than children who didn't nurse. They also have a lower risk of developing chronic conditions such as diabetes or high blood pressure.

"Any breast-feeding appears to be more beneficial than no breast-feeding, and longer durations of breast-feeding confer greater benefits than shorter durations," the task force noted in its recommendation statement.

TNS

Ajee Kindell breastfeeds her one-month-old son Jaeer Kindell after feeding him at the breastfeeding clinic at St. John Hospital in Detroit, Mich.

For moms, benefits include a reduced risk of breast and ovarian cancer, and a reduced risk of Type 2 diabetes.

The task force did not find convincing evidence that any particular breast-feeding intervention led to any specific health benefit, either for mothers or babies.

However, the panel did determine that some interventions increased the proportion of women who gave breast-feeding a try — and helped them stick with it longer. The experts calculated that to get one additional mother to nurse for six months, clinicians would have to reach out to 30 women.

The recommendations do not apply to women and infants who have a clear medical reason to avoid breast-feeding, such as a metabolic disorder.

The task force's new recommendations are in line with the guidance that the panel issued in 2008. They dovetail with advice from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the World Health Organization, which recommend that mothers nurse exclusively for about six months.

Both the recommendations and the evidence review were published Tuesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

In an editorial that accompanies the reports, Dr. Valerie Flaherman and Dr. Isabelle Von Kohorn flagged two potential risks in the way the World Health Organization promotes breast-feeding through its Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative.

The WHO advises mothers to "give no pacifiers or artificial nipples" to their newborns because they may make infants less inclined to nurse. Flaherman and Von Kohorn — both pediatricians and public health researchers — noted that the task force turned up no evidence that pacifier use interferes with breast-feeding. On the other hand, there is some evidence that pacifiers reduce the risk of sudden infant death syndrome, a leading cause of death among babies.

"Routine counseling to avoid pacifiers may very well be ethically problematic," they wrote.

Cigarettes can be blamed for nearly 3 in 10 cancer deaths in US, study says

By KAREN KAPLAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Cigarette smoking can be blamed for at least 167,133 cancer deaths in the U.S. in a single year, according to a new report.

That's more than the total number of people who will attend the first four games of the World Series in Cleveland and Chicago. It's also more than the entire population of Salem, Ore.

These are only the deaths due to the 12 categories of cancer that the U.S. surgeon general blames on smoking (a list that includes cancers of the lung, trachea and bronchus; the oropharynx; the esophagus; the larynx; the stomach; the bladder; the kidney and ureter; the pancreas; the cervix; the colon and rectum; the liver; and acute myeloid leukemia).

The National Cancer Institute says smoking also causes cancers of the mouth and throat.

And that's just cancer. Smoking is also responsible for nearly one-third of deaths due to coronary heart disease, and it causes chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes and rheumatoid arthritis, among other ailments, according to the surgeon general.

The new national estimate on smoking-related cancer deaths in 2014 comes from researchers at the American Cancer Society. They used data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to tally the death toll in each of the 50 states, plus the District of Columbia.

For each state, they combined statistics on the prevalence of current and former smokers — broken down by gender and age group — with statistics on the degree to which cigarettes are to blame for various kinds of cancer deaths.

What they found was wide variation in the proportion of cancer deaths that can be traced to cigarette smoking. It ranged from a low of 16.6 percent in Utah (where smoking is eschewed by Mormons) to a high of 34 percent in Kentucky. The average for all states was 29 percent.

Seven of the states in the top 10 were in the South: Kentucky, Arkansas, Tennessee, West Virginia, Louisiana, Alabama and Oklahoma. (The other three were Alaska, Missouri and Nevada.) Not coincidentally, 95 percent of tobacco grown in the U.S. is produced in Southern states.

The researchers drew a straight line between the tobacco industry's influence and the "weaker tobacco control policies and programs" in the South, resulting in a higher prevalence of smoking there. For instance:

■ Among the 21 states with anti-tobacco spending that is less than 10 percent of the amount recommended by the CDC, eight are in the South (Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia).

■ Among the 14 states with the fewest restrictions on indoor smoking, nine are in the South (Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas and Oklahoma).

■ The average cigarette excise tax in "major tobacco states" is 49 cents, compared with an average of $1.80 in other states. Taxes that make cigarettes more expensive are among the most effective anti-smoking policy tools available, the study authors noted.

Demographic factors are also at play. Americans who never attended college are up to four times more likely to smoke than Americans who are college graduates, and residents of the South have less education than people in other parts of the country.

In addition, African-Americans — a group for whom 27.2 percent of cancer-related deaths can be blamed on smoking — are more likely to live in the South, while Latinos — for whom 19.8 percent of cancer deaths results from smoking — are underrepresented there.

The analysis revealed a significant gender gap in tobacco's contribution to cancer mortality. Nationwide, 34 percent of cancer deaths in men were due to smoking, compared with 23 percent of cancer deaths in women.

That gender gap is a reflection of the fact that smoking has historically been more prevalent among men than women, but those figures could converge in the future, the study authors wrote. Indeed, they noted that in South Dakota, Montana and Arkansas, the prevalence of smoking is already higher in women than in men.

After Utah, California had the second-lowest percentage of cancer deaths related to smoking, at 25.5 percent. However, due to the state's huge size, it was home to the most victims (57,547 in 2014 alone).

The results were published online Monday in JAMA Internal Medicine.

The researchers found plenty of shortcomings in states' efforts to reduce smoking. Only one state — North Dakota — meets the CDC's target for funding anti-tobacco programs.

Instead of lamenting this fact, the researchers focused on the "potential to avert many more premature deaths" by implementing some basic policies. Among them:

■ States could discourage smoking by raising cigarette taxes. The World Health Organization recommends that taxes account for 75 percent of the total price of cigarettes, and none of the states (or the District of Columbia) currently meets this goal.

■ Only one-third of states have laws that prohibit smoking in all public places. The other two-thirds of states could join them.

■ Connecticut, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Vermont are the only states with Medicaid programs that provide "comprehensive coverage" for smoking cessation services. The rest of the country could follow their lead.

Life & Style

Powder sprinkled into opera pit may have been human ashes

NEW YORK (AP)—A powdery substance a man sprinkled into the orchestra pit at New York's Metropolitan Opera may have been an opera lover's ashes, police said Saturday.

The freakish incident during an afternoon performance of Rossini's "Guillaume Tell" forced Met officials to cancel the rest of the show as well as an evening performance of a second opera.

John Miller, the New York Police Department's deputy commissioner in charge of intelligence and counterterrorism, said several audience members said a man told them he was there to sprinkle the ashes of a friend, his mentor in the opera.

Miller said the man was in front of the first row of seats when he sprinkled the powder into the orchestra pit during the second intermission when most of the musicians were not present.

He said the powder will be tested, but the possibility that it was in fact human ashes "is certainly an area that we are pursuing."

Police know who the man is and are reaching out to him, Miller said, adding that the man does not live in New York.

Miller said the disposal of ashes at an opera house may violate city codes but, "I don't believe at this point that we see any criminal intent here."

Met General Manager Peter Gelb said, "We appreciate opera lovers coming to the Met. We hope that they will not bring their ashes with them."

Police initially said one person at the opera house requested medical attention. Miller said no one was injured.

The Met canceled Saturday night's performance of "L'Italiana in Algeri," another Rossini opera, because of the investigation.

READ ALOUD CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

First lady Diann Torres kicks off her read aloud program at San Vicente Elementary School on Oct. 27. She aims to conduct regular school visits and share storybooks with children as her way of encouraging reading. In this photo, she shares a storybook titled *Creeping Carrots* authored by Aaron Reynolds with teacher Alex Mercado's third grade class as her way to usher in the Halloween festivities.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

First lady Diann Torres has her picture taken with students from teacher Alex Mercado's third grade class at San Vicente Elementary School.

Dylan tells Swedish Academy he accepts Nobel Prize

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—Bob Dylan has accepted the 2016 Nobel Prize for literature, the Swedish Academy said, adding that getting the prestigious award left him "speechless."

The academy's permanent secretary, Sara Danius, said Dylan himself contacted them and said "of course" he would accept the prize. Danius told Sweden's TT news agency that Dylan called her Tuesday evening and they spoke for about 15 minutes.

"The news about the Nobel Prize left me speechless," Dylan told Danius, according to a statement posted Friday on the academy's website. "I appreciate the honor so much."

It has not yet been decided whether Dylan will attend any Nobel events in Stockholm in December, Danius said.

In an interview with British newspaper The Telegraph posted Friday, Dylan was quoted as saying he "absolutely" wants to attend the Dec. 10 prize ceremony, "if it's at all possible."

Danius said the academy will do "all it can" to have a schedule suiting Dylan if he wants to come to Stockholm, according to TT.

The 75-year-old singer-songwriter was awarded the prize on Oct. 13 "for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition."

Dylan at first was silent after the announcement, and a member of the Swedish Academy called the silence "impolite and arrogant."

Dylan has accepted numerous awards over the years, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, for which he attended a White House ceremony in 2012. But he also has a history of taking his time acknowledging them.

Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie sell their New Orleans home

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie have sold their home in New Orleans' French Quarter.

Documents filed with the Land Records Division of the Orleans Parish Clerk of Court's Office show the property sold for $4.9 million.

Pitt and Jolie purchased the home in 2007 after Hurricane Katrina for $3.5 million. The couple, who are divorcing, bought it after Pitt established the Make It Right Foundation to fuel development of new housing in New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward neighborhood.

According to the listing, the three-story, 1830s-era mansion has 7,645 square feet, five bedrooms, three bathrooms and two half-baths.

Listing agent Nina (NIGH'-nuh) Killeen confirmed the sale closed Friday. She says, "It sold for a very fair price. It's a good deal for both parties. They're happy with the outcome."

Mom resents supporting her daughter who's deep in debt

DEAR ABBY: My 34-year-old daughter, "Martha," is a single mom. I adore my granddaughter. Martha needs me to give her $500 a month, plus cover emergencies (new tires, hospital bills for baby, etc.) in order to get by. She has said repeatedly that she wants to have another baby before she's 35.

Abby, it's a financial burden to help her as much as we have. My husband (her stepdad) believes, along with me, that we should help until her finances improve. Martha is awash in student debt and has a low-paying job. She lives 12 hours away, so we have to fly out to see them, which means we don't see them often.

My question: How can I tell her that having a second baby when she can't support the first is something I can't handle financially? I am becoming resentful. Our retirement has been dismal because all our money is going to her.

My daughter has a hair-trigger temper and would use access to my granddaughter as leverage to keep the money coming. I'm appalled that she's in this position and upset that I have to pay for her choices.

APPALLED IN OHIO

DEAR APPALLED: You DON'T have to pay for your daughter's choices. Tell Martha that as an adult it is HER responsibility—not yours—to provide for herself and her child, and that if she becomes pregnant before her finances improve to the point that she's self-supporting, not to expect one more penny from you.

Please consider starting to reduce the amount you give her and set a deadline beyond which you will no longer supplement her income. Martha may need to find a second job, but that's better than you spending all your retirement money shouldering her responsibilities.

Expect her to be angry. If she threatens to blackmail you with access to your grandchild, tell her that the person she'll be punishing is the little one, not you, and stick to your guns.

DEAR ABBY: My husband has purchased different pieces of equipment over the years. He recently bought a small tractor that he's very proud of and enjoys using around our property. He also has purchased a large trailer that he often uses to haul his equipment and other things.

His problem is friends who seem to think they can help themselves to his stuff. They actually have the audacity to say, "I may borrow your tractor, trailer, etc., tomorrow." I find this to be rude in that they are not asking—they are TELLING him they will.

I told him to say he doesn't loan his equipment out, but he can't seem to be able to say that. Do you have a good comeback that he could use without offending his friends?

FRAZZLED WIFE

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR FRAZZLED: You, not your husband, appear to be the person with the problem. Nowhere in your letter did you mention that HE thinks he has one. If he resents what these friends are doing, a solution might be for him to tell them to talk to YOU about borrowing the equipment, so you can refuse for him.

A NOTE TO PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN: If your little ones will be out trick-or-treating tonight, please be sure they are supervised to assure their safety.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I THINK DAD LIKES HALLOWEEN AS MUCH AS WE DO.
IS HE TAKING US TRICK OR TREATING TONIGHT?
NO, MOM IS.
IS HE GOING TO STAY HOME AND GIVE OUT CANDY?
NO, HE'S GOING TO SIT IN THE BUSHES WITH THE GARDEN HOSE AND DRENCH POTENTIAL T.P.ERS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HALLOWEEN!! IT'S HERE!
ALL HALLOWS' EVE HAS ARRIVED!!
IT'S ONLY THE BEST, MOST GHOULISH DAY OF THE YEAR!!
WOO!!
AND NOT A PIECE OF CANDY IN HIM YET.
I HAVE THE SWAT TEAM ON SPEED DIAL.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

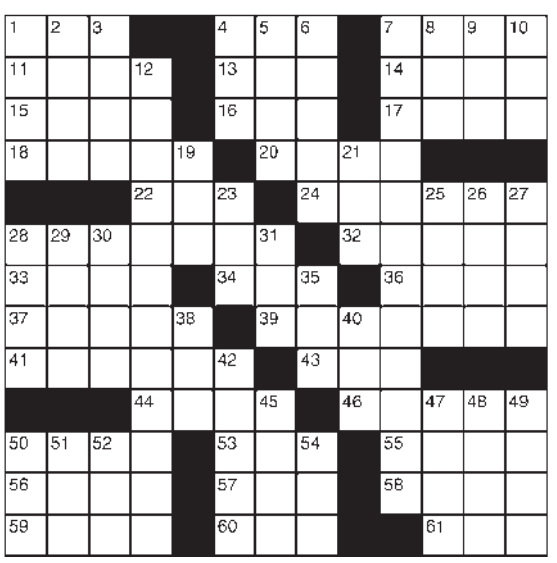
ACROSS
1 Bio stat
4 "A spider!"
7 Comestibles
11 Injure
13 Part of TNT
14 Throw hard
15 Jason's ship
16 Polite address
17 "Step —!"
18 Big Apple borough
20 Billions of years
22 Thesaurus wd.
24 Examined thoroughly
28 Ballpark snack
32 Diminish
33 Roof overhang
34 Teeny
36 Russian river
37 Sidestep
39 Disciple
41 Easter flowers
43 Likely
44 Wine valley
46 Irritable
50 Chutzpah
53 "This tastes awful!"
55 Actress Perlman
56 China setting
57 Born
58 Go under
59 Gush
60 Crucial
61 Ninny

DOWN
1 Melville captain
2 Teri of "Tootsie"
3 Thus
4 UFO crew
5 A Great Lake
6 Russian ballet company
7 1984 Bill Murray comedy film
8 Scoot
9 Swiss canton
10 Crunchy sandwich, for short
12 2005 Jane Fonda comedy film
19 Alphabet end
21 PBS funder
23 Just out
25 Small fruit pie
26 And others (Lat.)
27 Editor's mark
28 Bell sound
29 Sitarist Shankar
30 Daring Knievel
31 Meadow
35 Clean air org.
38 Afternoon social
40 Choose
42 Mettle
45 Writer James
47 Actor LaBeouf
48 Till bills
49 Tibetan herd
50 Petrol
51 Venomous viper
52 Fib
54 "Psst!"

Solution time: 26 mins.

I	S	L	A	M		E	B	B		G	A	M
S	K	A	T	E		C	I	A		R	T	E
P	A	R	T	S		L	A	R	I	A	T	S
		G	U	A	V	A	S		C	P	A	S
A	P	E		S	R	I		F	I	E	R	Y
P	A	L	S		C	R	M	A	N			
P	S	Y	C	H	O		E	A	G	L	E	S
			H	E	M	A	N		S	A	C	K
S	H	E	E	R		M	J	M		R	O	Y
P	E	R	M		M	O	S	A	I	C		
I	A	R	A	M	I	F		C	I	F	F	T
A	V	E		O	H	B		A	S	N	E	H
T	F	D		B	A	A		W	A	Y	N	F

Friday's answer 10 - 31



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Piper Perabo, 40; Mike O'Malley, 50; Dermot Mulroney, 53; Peter Jackson, 55.

Happy Birthday: Don't stop believing in yourself. Apply your skills and expertise toward something you love to do. Delve into the depths of whatever excites you. Bring adventure back into your life. Step up and stand tall and you will find the portal you are looking for. Let your imagination take over and your experience and expertise lead the way. Your numbers are 8, 11, 20, 28, 33, 36, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You'll discover an easy way to update or improve the way you present or market what you have to offer. Positive change will help you overcome any obstacle you encounter. Make relationships a priority and put aside time for romance. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Discuss your ideas with someone you are in a partnership with and you will make headway. Your practical, well-thought-out plans will help you find the support you are looking for. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Your actions and ability to read signals and body language will be limited today. If you think you may be misinterpreting someone, ask them to clarify what they mean. You don't want to miss out on an adventure that will make you rethink your future. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Interact, network and mix business with pleasure, and you will come out a winner. Doing things with children or learning something new will motivate you to live in the moment. A retreat will lead to enlightenment. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't waste time on something that won't benefit you. Concentrate on being and doing your best. How you present what you have to offer will determine what transpires. A positive change is within your reach, and romance is on the rise. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Dig in and make a difference in your community. Your astute point of view and your ability to make important decisions will help you find the success you are looking for. Don't let someone's demands stand in your way. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take a chance and do things your own way. Your input and dedication to being the best will be valued by your peers and help you move into a position you find more interesting. Don't let problems at home affect your productivity. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Discuss your feelings and intentions. Secrecy can be a good thing, but not when you are dealing with business matters. You can get your way if you explain what you want. A creative idea will blossom into something good. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Take care of your health. It's not worth taking a risk if it jeopardizes your physical, emotional or financial well-being. Make positive changes to your lifestyle by aiming to get into better shape. Romance will ease your stress. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Assess and implement ideas and bring about reasonable changes to the way you make your living. Don't get pressured into something risky that could cost you more than you can afford. Follow your gut, not someone's guile. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't mess with anyone you are emotionally attached to. Do your own thing and compromise as much as you can to avoid a no-win dispute. Invest time into honing your skills and developing something you want to pursue. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Live the dream, but don't go overboard. Signing contracts and making deals are favored. You stand to make financial gains if you play your cards well. Don't expect as much when it comes to love and romance. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intense, creative and progressive. You are hands-on and quick to react.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		7	9	4			6	
	5				7			9
3				2		5		
6			8		2		3	
2		3				4		8
	8		3		4			2
		5		1				6
9			5				8	
	4			8	3	1		

Difficulty Level ★ 10/31

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

8	9	2	4	5	7	1	3	6
1	5	6	2	8	3	7	4	9
3	4	7	9	1	6	5	2	8
6	8	4	5	7	1	2	9	3
2	7	5	3	9	4	8	6	1
9	1	3	8	6	2	4	5	7
4	6	1	7	3	5	9	8	2
7	2	9	6	4	8	3	1	5
5	3	8	1	2	9	6	7	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/31

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

SALES MANAGERS **Solution: 8 letters**

B	B	S	N	O	I	T	O	M	O	R	P	S	C	C
U	O	S	C	H	G	N	I	N	I	A	R	T	O	O
S	S	A	L	E	T	A	I	T	O	G	E	N	S	M
I	S	E	R	E	G	I	O	N	A	L	S	U	M	M
N	W	A	R	E	H	O	U	S	E	T	E	O	E	I
E	S	T	E	G	R	A	T	M	R	D	N	C	T	S
S	T	R	O	P	E	R	A	U	E	E	T	C	I	S
S	P	O	R	T	A	R	C	P	G	A	A	A	C	I
E	L	T	I	T	K	T	A	A	L	L	T	T	S	O
M	D	U	E	E	I	R	R	I	N	S	I	D	E	N
A	L	G	T	O	T	E	A	E	A	F	O	Ⓟ	G	F
N	Y	I	N	M	V	T	C	T	O	O	N	Ⓛ	Y	F
A	N	E	E	E	E	A	O	R	F	T	E	Ⓐ	M	A
G	E	N	B	R	L	U	P	H	I	R	I	Ⓝ	G	T
E	T	R	I	P	Q	T	R	A	V	E	L	L	E	S

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Last Friday's Answer: Frequency

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-JUDICIARY-02

SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 9, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

PURCHASE OF A CLASS "I" VEHICLE (New/Used 4X4 5 Door Utility Vehicle) FOR THE CNMI Judiciary, Drug Court

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS, INVITATION TO BID MAY BE OBTAINED AND SUBMITTED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, DOOR #5, LOCATED AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS, BEGINNING OCTOBER 24, 2016, AT 8:00 A.M.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ HON. ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/S/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-JUDICIARY-01

SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 9, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

PURCHASE OF A CLASS "D" VEHICLE (4 DOOR SEDAN) FOR THE CNMI JUDICIARY, JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WIAVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ HON. ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/S/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-DPW-003

SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 16, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A DIGITAL BLACK & WHITE COPIER MACHINE/NETWORK PRINTER & SCANNER (W/COLOR SENDING) & FAX FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISION OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS; OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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Suwaso Corporation would like to invite all qualified US workers to send/submit their resume/application form to Recruit.COGR@eland.co.kr. Please provide at least two recommendation letter and proof of certification for the position, if needed. Application form is available in the hotel lobby and HR office. Incomplete application form may not be considered for assessment. Please fill up the form completely prior submission. No phone call please.

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Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Saturday, November 5th, 2016.
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Kluber, Indians beat Cubs, now lead World Series 3-1

CHICAGO (AP)—One more win and baseball fans everywhere might finally believe in these Cleveland Indians.

That's all it will take for Corey Kluber & Co. to clinch this World Series.

Kluber pitched six sparkling innings on short rest for his second victory this week and the Indians beat the Chicago Cubs 7-2 Saturday night, taking a 3-1 lead and nearing their first championship since 1948.

Jason Kipnis hit a three-run homer in his hometown and Carlos Santana connected for the first of his three hits as manager Terry Francona's team won for the second straight day at Wrigley Field.

Trevor Bauer gets the ball Sunday night when the visiting Indians try for the franchise's third World Series title against Jon Lester and the faltering Cubs.

"I think we like the position we're in, but the task isn't done yet," Kluber said. "We still have one more game to win, and we're going to show up tomorrow and play with the same sense of urgency we've played with until this point. We don't want to let them build up any momentum and let them get back in the series."

Still, not bad for a team that seemed like an underdog all year long.

The Indians topped the defending champion Royals and star-studded Tigers for the AL Central title, then came the postseason. No one thought they would beat Big Papi and Boston, outslug Toronto or ever end their drought before the charmed Cubs, who led the majors with 103 wins.

Well, look who is on the brink of hoisting the hardware.

"We've got one more to get and it's probably going to be the hardest victory of the year, but this is a special night for me and this team to take the first two here," said Kipnis, who grew up a Cubs fan on the north side of Chicago.

Kipnis had three hits and scored two runs as Cleveland moved to 10-2 in this postseason. Francisco Lindor contributed an RBI single, helping Francona improve to 11-1 in the World Series.

The Indians now will try to bring another crown to Cleveland, adding to the one LeBron James and the Cavaliers earned earlier this year.

"We have a ways to go. We're not done," Francona said.

Dexter Fowler doubled and scored in the first for the Cubs, and then homered against Andrew Miller in the eighth. Fowler's drive to left-center was the first homer for Chicago in the World Series since Phil Cavaretta connected in Game 1 in 1945 and the first run allowed by Miller during his dominant postseason.

In between Fowler's two hits, the Cubs came up empty every time they had a chance to put any pressure on Cleveland.

"So we made mistakes. Absolutely, we made mistakes tonight," manager Joe Maddon said. "That was part of it. But then again, we just have to do more offensively to give ourselves a chance."

The Indians won for the second straight day at Wrigley - those two wins matched the Cubs' entire total of World Series victories in more than a century of playing at their famed ballpark.

"They're obviously doing something right, taking advantage of our mistakes and my mistakes," Cubs third baseman Kris Bryant said.

Pitching on three days' rest for the second time, Kluber allowed five hits, struck out six and walked one. The steady, stoic right-hander, who struck out nine in a dominant performance in Game 1, improved to 4-1 with a 0.89 ERA in five playoff starts this year.

Francona put Santana at first after starting him in left in Game 3, and Mike Napoli was out of the starting lineup for the time in the playoffs. And just like the rest of October, the decision worked out quite well for the Indians.

Santana led off the second with a drive to right against John Lackey, tying it at 1. Santana's third homer of the playoffs silenced the crowd of 41,706, and the Indians seized the momentum from there.

Two throwing errors on Bryant, including one on Kluber's infield single, led to an unearned run that put Cleveland ahead to stay. Kipnis connected for his second playoff homer in the seventh, pointing to his friends and family in the stands after powering the Indians to a 7-1 lead.

"We're mortals. We're baseball players. It's what we live for," Kipnis said. "At this kind of stage it's what we all dream about."

AP

Cleveland Indians' Jason Kipnis celebrates after hitting a three-run home run during the seventh inning of Game 4 of the Major League Baseball World Series against the Chicago Cubs Saturday, Oct. 29, 2016, in Chicago.

MORE ON KLUBER

Kluber's 0.89 ERA is the second-lowest for a single postseason for pitchers with at least 30 innings. Burt Hooton allowed three earned runs in 33 playoff innings for the 1981 Dodgers. Kluber is tied with Orel Hershiser (1995) for the Indians record for most strikeouts in a single postseason with 35.

"Just an unreal job by Kluber on three days' rest," Lindor said.

STEPPING UP

Cubs right fielder Jason Heyward made his first start of the World Series and responded with two hits. The 27-year-old Heyward, who signed a $184 million, eight-year contract with Chicago last winter, was just 2 for 31 in 12 playoff games coming into the night.

UP NEXT

Indians: Bauer lasted just 3 2/3 innings in Game 2, allowing two runs and six hits. The right-hander had a career-best 12 wins during the regular season, but is 0-1 with a 5.00 ERA in three playoff starts.

Cubs: Lester dropped to 3-1 with a 1.35 ERA in four career World Series starts when he allowed three runs in 5 2/3 innings in the opener Tuesday night. The left-hander was the co-MVP of the NL Championship Series, going 1-0 with a 1.38 ERA in two starts against the Dodgers.

Down 3-1 in Series, Cubs on brink of seeing special year end

CHICAGO (AP)—There could be a championship celebration at Wrigley Field on Sunday, just not the kind the Chicago Cubs and generations of their long-suffering fans dreamed of seeing.

Tops in the majors with 103 wins, the Cubs simply can't afford to lose another game. Otherwise, a championship drought dating to 1908 will continue.

The Cubs once again got shut down by Corey Kluber on Saturday night and didn't get the dominant start they needed from John Lackey.

Throw in two errors by third baseman Kris Bryant and it added up to a 7-2 loss to the Cleveland Indians in Game 4 of the World Series.

They trail 3-1, and if they don't get more from their lineup or a big effort by ace Jon Lester on Sunday, it will once again be wait 'til next year for the Cubs.

"We got to win tomorrow," Anthony Rizzo said. "That's the bottom line. We've got to do whatever we can to win the ballgame tomorrow and that's it. There's no looking past that."

Only six teams have come back from a 3-1 deficit to win the World Series, most recently the 1985 Kansas City Royals. The Cubs sure did not envision falling into such a hole. Nor did their fans, who packed Wrigley Field and the neighboring bars.

The surrounding streets were a sea of blue hours before the ballpark opened just as they were prior to Game 3. But the excitement and enthusiasm surrounding the Cubs' first trip to the World Series since 1945 has given way to disappointment after two tough losses.

By the time Javier Baez grounded to pitcher Dan Otero to end the game, there was almost an eerie quiet inside Wrigley after the 102-year-old ballpark had been rocking.

"It's just a matter of us gaining offensive confidence," said manager Joe Maddon, whose team is hitting .204 in the Series. "That's what we need right now. More than anything, when you're not hitting like that, the whole vibe's very difficult to push in that real positive direction. So you'll continually try to be positive in the dugout during the course of the game. But, you know, it's difficult. It's difficult especially this time of the year. We just need that offensive epiphany somehow to get us pushing in the right direction."

The Cubs have not won a World Series game at Wrigley since they beat Detroit in Game 6 in 1945. They lost the next one at home to the Tigers and have been haunted by curses and disappointment in the decades since then.

But for fans who have suffered through it all, this team has provided hope for them like no other. Even if the Cubs don't find a way to dig themselves out of this hole, their lineup is loaded with young sluggers such as Bryant and Rizzo and budding stars like Addison Russell and NLCS co-MVP Javier Baez.

They boast one of the top rotations in baseball, with Lester, Kyle Hendricks and Jake Arrieta leading the way.

There is reason to believe that a team that got to the NLCS a year ago and advanced to the World Series this year will be in the title picture for years to come. That's some consolation for their fans even if they want it all now.

Dexter Fowler got the Cubs off to a good start in this game, hitting a leadoff double and scoring in the first against Kluber. He added a solo homer off Andrew Miller in the eighth.

Rizzo and the struggling Jason Heyward had two hits apiece. But a team that finished third in the majors in runs, once again failed to produce.

"As long as there's an out, as long as there's a pitch, we still have a good shot," Russell said. "We've won three games in a row before."

They at least scored in this game after getting shut out in four of the previous eight. But they didn't do much against Kluber.

The 2014 AL Cy Young Award winner went six innings, allowing one run and five hits pitching on three days' rest. It was about as good as his previous start, when he went six scoreless innings and struck out nine in Game 1.

Lackey simply couldn't match that. The veteran right-hander allowed three runs - two earned - and four hits over five innings.

He gave up a leadoff homer to Carlos Santana in the second, and another run came home in the inning thanks to a pair of throwing errors by Bryant.

Bradley hits 8 3s, Celtics beat Hornets, 104-98

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Avery Bradley said his goal coming into the season was to expand his game.

So far, so good.

Bradley had 31 points on a career-high eight 3-pointers and grabbed 11 rebounds, and the Boston Celtics defeated the Charlotte Hornets 104-98 Saturday night.

Bradley was 8 of 11 from beyond the arc as the Celtics shot 75 percent from the field in the fourth quarter to pull away.

Bradley is averaging 21.3 points and nearly nine rebounds through three games this season.

"That's my mindset this year—I'm trying to rebound, pass the ball and make plays for others," Bradley said. "I work on my game every single summer and know I'm trying to put it in the game."

Isaiah Thomas had 24 points and seven assists and Al Horford added 14 points for the Celtics, who trailed by one entering the fourth quarter.

Boston finished 15 of 31 from 3-point range, while the Hornets were just 9 of 32.

AP

Boston Celtics' Avery Bradley (0) reacts to making a three point basket against the Charlotte Hornets in the second half of an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Saturday, Oct. 29, 2016.

Knicks 111, Grizzlies 104

In New York, Kristaps Porzingis scored 21 points, Carmelo Anthony had 20 and New York used a fast start and strong finish to beat Memphis in its home opener.

Derrick Rose, Joakim Noah and Courtney Lee all had impressive moments in their first home games at Madison Square Garden, and Anthony converted the three-point play that sparked the decisive spurt.

Rose had a couple of crossovers and quick bursts into the lane that showed his legs looked healthy and scored 13 points. Noah finished with six points, 10 rebounds and seven assists, and Lee scored 16 points as the Knicks got their first win under coach Jeff Hornacek after falling apart in the second half and getting routed 117-88 by Cleveland in the NBA season opener.

Marc Gasol scored 20 points for the Grizzlies.

Cavaliers 105, Magic 99

In Cleveland, LeBron James scored 23 points, Kyrie Irving added 20 and Cleveland beat Orlando for the 15th straight time.

Kevin Love scored 19 points to help the NBA champion Cavaliers improve to 3-0. They haven't lost to the Magic since Nov. 23, 2012, in Orlando.

Evan Fournier scored 22 points for Orlando. The Magic cut a 22-point deficit to 88-85 with 4 minutes to play, but J.R. Smith hit three 3-pointers and scored 11 in the fourth quarter.

Smith made 3-pointers on consecutive possessions and Cleveland forced a shot-clock violation. James followed with two baskets, including a left-handed finish at the rim.

Serge Ibaka converted a three-point play and hit a free throw, cutting the lead to 98-95 with 45 seconds left, but Smith's 3-pointer from the corner pushed the lead to six.

Bucks 110, Nets 108

In Milwaukee, John Henson's tip-in at the buzzer gave Milwaukee its first victory of the season.

Rashad Vaughn scored a career-high 22 points, including six 3-pointers, for Milwaukee. Giannis Antetokounmpo added 21 points and 11 rebounds. He scored all of his points in the paint, including seven dunks.

Vaughn, who surpassed his previous career high of 12 points, hit consecutive 3-pointers that gave Milwaukee a seven-point lead late in the fourth quarter. But after Matthew Dellavedova missed a driving layup, Bojan Bogdanovic nailed a 3-pointer to tie the score with 11.6 seconds remaining, setting up Henson's heroics.

Bogdanovic's 26 points led the Nets, who made just 11 of 35 3-point attempts.

Bulls 118, Pacers 101

In Chicago, Doug McDermott had 23 points, Jimmy Butler added 16 on 6-of-9 shooting and Rajon Rondo had 13 assists to lead the Bulls to their second straight victory to open the season.

McDermott scored 11 points in the fourth quarter as coach Fred Hoiberg gave his veteran starters — Butler, Rondo and Dwyane Wade, who had 14 points — the rest of the night off after the third quarter.

Taj Gibson had 12 points and eight rebounds, and Robin Lopez added 12 points for the Bulls.

Paul George and Myles Turner had 20 points apiece to lead the Pacers (1-2).

The Bulls had a 24-20 lead at the end of the first quarter before breaking things open with a dominant second. They scored 38 points on 14-for-18 (77.8 percent) shooting in the quarter to race out to a 62-41 halftime lead.

Spurs 98, Pelicans 79

In San Antonio, Kawhi Leonard had 20 points and San Antonio won in its home opener.

The Spurs won their first season opener in 20 years without Tim Duncan, who retired in the offseason. San Antonio played without any of its Big Three as Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili both sat out to rest in the first night of back-to-back games.

San Antonio didn't appear to miss them, as 11 players scored to help the team remain unbeaten after three games.

Patty Mills scored 18 points starting in place of Parker, and LaMarcus Aldridge had 12 points.

Pelicans forward Anthony Davis was held to 18 points after scoring 50 and 45 points in the first two games. Aldridge picked up three fouls in the first half as Davis' primary defender, but still managed to hold the 6-foot-10 forward to 6-for-15 shooting in the game.

E'Twaun Moore also had 18 points for New Orleans (0-3).

Hawks 104, 76ers 72

In Philadelphia, Paul Millsap scored 17 points to lead five Hawks in double figures.

Kyle Korver chipped in 15 points and Mike Muscala added 14 for Atlanta.

The Hawks barely needed top offseason acquisition Dwight Howard. The big man had just two points and seven rebounds in his second game for his hometown team after signing a three-year, $70 million free-agent contract this summer. The 31-year-old center had 19 rebounds and 11 points in Atlanta's season-opening 114-99 win over Washington on Thursday.

Dennis Schroder had 11 points and 11 assists for Atlanta.

Joel Embiid and Sergio Rodriguez had 14 points apiece for the 76ers.

Trail Blazers 115, Nuggets 113, OT

In Denver, Damian Lillard scored 37 points, including the go-ahead floater with less than a second remaining in overtime, and Portland won in a game that featured a 28-minute delay in the fourth quarter due to a power surge.

Lillard blew past big man Kenneth Faried in the lane and floated in a shot with 0.3 seconds left. Lillard had tied the game on a runner in regulation with 2.1 seconds remaining.

Denver led 90-85 early in the fourth quarter when a bank of lights went out near the ceiling at the Pepsi Center. The teams shot jumpers until the game was restarted. Portland shot lights out in its return to the court — the Nuggets not as much, especially down the stretch when they squandered a nine-point lead.

CJ McCollum had seven of his 23 points in overtime to provide a spark for Portland.

Nikola Jokic led six Denver players in double figures with 23 points and he had a career-high 17 rebounds in the home opener for Denver.

Kings 106, Timberwolves 103

In Sacramento, California, DeMarcus Cousins had 29 points and Rudy Gay added 28 for Sacramento.

Ben McLemore had 13 points for the Kings, who won for the first time at new Golden 1. Matt Barnes had 12 points and nine assists. Cousins picked up two fouls in the game's final minute and fouled out.

Andrew Wiggins scored 29 points for the Timberwolves, who are off to an 0-2 start under new coach Tom Thibodeau. Zach Levine had three 3-pointers and 21 points while Karl Anthony-Towns had 15 points and Gorgui Dieng had 14 points and 13 rebounds.

Abdul-Jabbar visits Harvard, tells players to stay in school

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Kareem Abdul-Jabbar didn't mention either Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton by name, but the presidential election was on his mind when he came to Harvard on Saturday to talk to the players on the Crimson basketball team.

Nor did the Basketball Hall of Famer need to cite Colin Kaepernick by name when he said current sports stars were "getting their baptism" in social movements.

"I'm glad to see that the younger athletes are concerned and saying something about it. That's how we solve things," Abdul-Jabbar told reporters before meeting with the players.

"The Founding Fathers gave us a great method. But it requires us to listen, and to inform others of our ideas in a polite and understanding way. They have a ways to go."

Wearing a Harvard cap and sweatshirt, Abdul-Jabbar ducked his head to get through the door of the conference room overlooking the school's 113-year-old football stadium. Soon he would be joined by the players—all of them born long after he scored the last of his NBA record 38,387 points.

Settling into a chair in front of a fireplace, his latest book on the table in front of him, Abdul-Jabbar said he felt compelled to speak out about a political climate with "an emphasis on anger and division."

"There's a certain feeling of alarm among segments of our population because the skin color of the country has gotten a little bit darker over the past 20 or 30 years. And that has caused alarm for some people," he said. "People of color are patriotic Americans in the same way that white people are."

Abdul-Jabbar said it will be difficult to make progress on the country's issues when the two sides aren't listening to each other. "A battle like this is not being waged with facts. That bothers me," he said. "We should be able to agree on what the facts are."

A student at UCLA in the late 1960s, Abdul-Jabbar lived through the Civil Rights movement and said he tried to follow the example set by Muhammad Ali, who was stripped of his title for refusing induction into the Vietnam War. Abdul-Jabbar refused to play on the 1968 Olympic basketball team, saying the country didn't represent him.

Kaepernick made similar comments when he refused to stand for the national anthem before NFL games, a protest that renewed the debate on race.

Players annoyed with NFL's crackdown on celebrations

By ROB MAADDI
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

AP
Tennessee Titans running back DeMarco Murray (29) celebrates with offensive tackle Jack Conklin (78) and tight end Phillip Supernaw, right, after Murray scored a touchdown on a 14-yard run against the Jacksonville Jaguars in the first half of an NFL football game Thursday, Oct. 27, 2016, in Nashville, Tenn.

Hey NFL players: If you want a safe way to celebrate touchdowns and big plays, just hug it out.

Don't twerk. Don't pretend to shoot a bow and arrow. Don't even think about playing basketball with a football. And, never take your helmet off.

"Hugs are always legal," Dean Blandino, the NFL's senior vice president for officiating, said in an explanatory video earlier this month.

Not a hugger? No problem. You have options.

"This may seem crazy, but you can always just hand the ball to an official," Blandino also said in the video sent to news media and teams.

The league's crackdown on celebrations has resulted in more unsportsmanlike penalties. There have been 22 taunting penalties through Week 7, up from 13 at this point in 2015 and double the total after seven games in 2014.

"The rule hasn't changed in terms of what is and what isn't taunting," Blandino said, adding referees were advised to make it a point-of-emphasis call. "Fouls go up initially, and then as the players start to regulate their behavior and they understand where the bar is, we start to see the foul numbers go down."

But many players and fans don't understand why the league cares so much about celebrations. They're quick to call it the "No Fun League."

San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Torrey Smith criticized the league last week in a series of tweets after former Giants kicker Josh Brown was placed on Commissioner Roger Goodell's "exempt" list because police documents revealed Brown admitted to repeatedly abusing his former wife while they were married.

"Celebrating a TD will get you fined but being an abuser can keep the checks coming in," Smith wrote on Twitter. "Gotta start taking the things that are important serious.... and be consistent with the investigation and punishment."

In his video, Blandino said: "We're not trying to legislate emotion out of the game. Sportsmanship and player safety are the two top priorities in the game today."

No doubt, Billy "White Shoes" Johnson's dancing, the Ickey Shuffle, the high-fiving Fun Bunch and Mark Gastineau's sack dance wouldn't be tolerated. Terrell Owens and Chad Johnson would've been ejected for their creative celebrations.

"We talk about, we want to grow the business of the NFL and revenues," Jets wide receiver Brandon Marshall said. "We see growth from 10 billion to 20 billion (dollars) by the end of 2022. We need more of that. We need guys to come out of the box. We need Antonio Brown twerking in the end zone. Kids shouldn't be fined for that. Guys should go out there and wear colorful cleats. That's our culture right now. This is this new era, this hip-hop and lifestyle era. We need to embrace that. You can't just put guys in a box."

Blandino explained that Brown was penalized for twerking because it was "sexually suggestive" and sends the wrong message to youngsters watching the sport.

"We don't want that out on the youth football field," Blandino said. "That's not the image we want to portray."

Dancing is fine—for the most part.

Victor Cruz is known for doing the salsa after he scores, but Odell Beckham Jr. drew a penalty for dropping to his knee and taking a pretend photo of his teammate.

"The salsa was fine but taking a Polaroid was choreographed," Blandino said. "If we let this go, players will try to outdo each other and it will lead to other things like players stomping on logos and players hitting players who stomp on logos, so we have to continue to maintain the standard of sportsmanship and professionalism that the NFL stands for."

Saints wideout Brandin Cooks tweaked his Bible-themed TD celebration after Redskins cornerback Josh Norman was fined for mimicking a bow-and-arrow shot following an interception.

Inspired by Psalm 144:6—"Send forth lightning and scatter the enemy; shoot your arrows and rout them"—Cooks used to celebrate TDs in a similar way by shooting an imaginary bow and arrow. Now, he pretends to pull the arrow from his back but doesn't follow through with the shooting motion, kneels down and raises both arms toward heaven .

"What it's essentially for is God, thanking him and being able to glorify him in a different way than just crossing my chest," Cooks said.

Cooks was never fined for his celebration, but stopped it after Norman's fine because he didn't want to risk a penalty. Smart move because Blandino said players will be penalized for "anything that mimics a violent act or weaponry whether it's directed at an opponent or not."

Norman was exasperated after teammate Vernon Davis drew a penalty for shooting a jumper with the football over a goal post following a TD. Using the ball "as a prop" is illegal. The 15-yard penalty assessed on the kickoff led to a shorter kick that was returned 86 yards for a score by Philadelphia's Wendell Smallwood.

"When is enough, enough? Fans want to see excitement," Norman said. "They work their tails off during the week. They go to work 9-5 and they get a day off on Sundays to come out here and watch their team put on a show. We are entertainers, whether you like it or not.

ARTIFICIAL

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chi and we want to help them in their visions for CNMI soccer, Yamagata said through interpreter Taiki Ishizu. "

The soccer.com Inc. said once the 48,000-square meter lot has been cleared and construction work is finished, they can start putting synthetic fibers that look like natural grass and the process will only take a month to complete. Once done, the artificial pitch can be used after just a few days.

Yamagata declined to divulge the cost of the project, but said their company will provide a discounted price to NMIFA to show their support to CNMI soccer. Other companies—on- and off-island—are also expected to pitch in to build the first-ever artificial turf in the Commonwealth.

"We would like to thank Mr. Yamagata and his company for their commitment to us," Tan said during his closing remarks at the groundbreaking ceremony last week.

Meanwhile, Yamagata hopes that NMIFA and his company's partnership will not end once they have built the artificial turf.

"Maybe when the facility is done, we can help NMIFA hosts some teams as we bring some players here to train or play," said Yamagata, whose company operates several futsal courts around Japan, too.

Soccer.com Inc, also helps hook players up with professional teams in Asia and Europe and provides soccer apparels to Japanese teams.

"We're looking forward to more partnerships with NMIFA as we both seek the development of soccer in the CNMI," the soccer.com Inc. CEO added.

PGC

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athletes to Saipan for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

"The presence of New Zealand and Australian athletes will make the level of competition even higher. Athletes from the Pacific will be challenged more knowing that they will be up against additional tough oppositions from New Zealand and Australia.

Minoque said they don't know yet if the two powerhouse teams in Oceania will send teams to the quadrennial meet after Australia and New Zealand debuted in the 2015 Pacific Games in Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea. The Kiwis had 49 athletes in last year's competition, while the Aussies were represented by 43 individuals. They participated in selected sports with Australia bringing home 47 medals (17-19-11 gold-silver-bronze tally) and New Zealand getting 20 (1-9-10). Host PNG ruled the event with its 217-medal haul (88-69-60) and was joined in the Top 3 by New Caledonia (60-50-56) and Tahiti (39-34-41).

8TH

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ning margin.

Fitial was among the four 8th Division players who scored in double figures for their team with his 11. Jun Tabora led 8th Division with his 18 markers, while Maverick Itibus and Alex Lauron chipped in 11 and 10, respectively.

Randy Mungcal had 20 points for Maplas, which got 16 from Angelo Fernando. Ken Viray finished with only 10 markers, a far cry from his 30 in their 97-71 rout of Cavite last Tuesday.

In the second game, Save More cashed on its consistent scoring for the easy win and handed PC Bargain its fourth loss after five matches.

Save More had at least 20 points in each of the fourth quarters and blew the game wide open in the third period, as PC Bargain could not keep up with its foe's good shooting.

By the end of the third, Save More had turned a 47-33 advantage to a 65-43 spread, thanks to Sid Quan's 8 points in the penultimate quarter. The mobile forward nearly matched PC Bargain's total output (10) in the third frame.

Save More went on to keep the huge lead, as it just traded baskets with PC Bargain in the fourth quarter.

Quan finished the one-sided match with 16 points, the same production Save More got from Ariel Maesa, while Andy Mortos contributed 10. Six other Save More players added at least 5 points each for the team's balance offense.

James VIllacrusis, for the fifth straight time, paced PC Bargain with his 18 points.

First Game

8th Division 77 – Jun Tabora 19, Itibus 13, Fitial 11, Lauron 10, Diaz 8, Catalla 6, Alipio 4, Lansang 4, Zapata 2.

Maplas 64 – Mungcal 20, Fernando 16, Viray 10, Galulu 6, Joyner 5, Aniciete 3, Rivera 2, Joson 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-15, 36-33, 57-48, 77-64.

Second Game

Save More 87 – Quan 16, Maesa 16, Mortos 10, Mangali 7, Viola 7, Sison 6, Mina 6, Sanciangco 6, Guiang 5, Garth 2, Mateo 1, Villanueva 1.

PC Bargain 65 – Ja. Villacrusis 18, Jo. Villacrusis 13, Alegre 10, Manibusan 8, Reyes 6, Cabugawan 4, Munoz 4, Alano 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-20, 47-33, 65-43, 87-65.

Send-Off Ceremony for CNMI U19 Women's National Team

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

CNMI U19 Women's National Team players and coach Luam Khen Koo wait for the questions from the media during a brief press conference before the send-off ceremony for the squad last Oct. 17 at Kanoa Resort. The team is now in China to compete in the AFC U19 Women's Championship 2017 Qualifier.

NMIFA president Jerry Tan addresses the CNMI delegation.

Five members of the CNMI U19 Women's National Team listen to questions from KSPN's Bob Coldeen.

NMIFA president Jerry Tan, center, shakes hands with Dianne Pablo, right, before turning over the CNMI flag to her and co-captain Chloe Salvosa.

CNMI U19 Women's National Team captains Chloe Salvosa, left, and Dianne Pablo hold the CNMI flag.

CNMI U19 Women's National Team officials applaud the speech of NMIFA vice president Vickie Izuka.

CNMI U19 Women's National Team players and officials pose for a group photo at the end of the send-off ceremony.

Kluber, Indians beat Cubs, now lead World Series 3-1

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Bradley hits 8 3s, Celtics beat Hornets, 104-98

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PGC upbeat about Mini Games facilities

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pacific Games Council officials welcome the news about the scheduled repair works at the major sports facilities in the CNMI.

"One of the biggest challenges a country faces when it decides to host the Pacific or Mini Games is the lack of enough facilities. Some had to build new facilities in order to bring these games to their country. The CNMI is very fortunate that it already has the facilities in place and will only need repairs," said PGC chief executive officer Andrew Minogue, who along with PGC president Vidhya Lakhan visited Saipan last week to get updates on the Commonwealth's preparations for the hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

"I learned that the major facilities on Saipan will soon undergo repairs and that's good news for the CNMI and for us," Lakhan said.

"The PGC is very confident the CNMI will deliver an outstanding event as nearly all of the sporting facilities are in place and ready," Minogue said.

Resurfacing work at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility may start next month, while the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium will also undergo repairs. Other facilities—the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield and the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield—are also expected to have a facelift.

The Oleai Sports Complex will be the main headquarters of the 2012 Pacific Mini Games, which will feature 12 sports—athletics, badminton, golf, tennis, va'a (canoe), volleyball (indoor and beach), baseball, sailing, swimming, triathlon, weightlifting, and wrestling.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Pacific Games Council chief executive officer Andrew Minogue, second left, gestures during a brief press conference for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games last Tuesday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Also in the photo are, from left, NMSA president Michael White, PGC president Vidhya Lakhan of Fiji, and Mini Games oversight committee chair Jerry Tan.

New Zealand, Australia invited

Meanwhile, Minogue said PGC has already invited New Zealand and Australia to send

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8th Division, Save More down foes

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

PC Bargain's Romualdo Alegre, left, and James Villacrusis block the reverse layup of Save More's Robert Guiang during the third quarter of their game in the UFO caging last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Save More/MIFICPA and 8th Division/MAPEA earned double-digit winning margins over their respective opponents in the 2016 UFO/IT&E Inter-Organizational Basketball League last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Save More played consistent offense en route to an 87-65 victory over PC Bargain/Visminda in the second game. In the curtain raiser, 8th Division finished strong for a 13-point win over Maplas/Akap Pinoy, 77-64.

8th Division got its second straight victory and third overall in five games after downing Maplas, which fell to a 1-3 mark.

Maplas remained afloat in the first three quarters, facing a manageable 9-point deficit, 48-57, going into the fourth period, but failed to neutralize 8th Division's gunners in the final canto to absorb its third loss.

Kevin Fitial started and ended the fourth frame with a triple, while five of his teammates also contributed in 8th Division's steady shooting in the final quarter for their baker's dozen win-

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Artificial turf on Saipan a first for Japanese firm

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Japanese company soccer.com Inc. will be working on its first international project when it installs the artificial turf on the soon to be built NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

"We've made artificial soccer turfs on over 40 locations in Japan and this will be our first one outside Japan," said soccer.com Inc. chief executive Nobuyuki Yamagata in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* last Thursday.

Nobuyuki along with Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta, NMIFA vice president Vickie Izuka, NMSA president Michael White, Pacific Games Council president Vidhya Lakhan, first lady Diann Torres, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), and Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter led the groundbreaking ceremony for the facility last Wednesday.

"We decided to partner with NMIFA in building this artificial turf because we want to help soccer grow further more on the island by providing a nice pitch for the players. We're very good friends with Jerry Tan and coach Seki (Kiyoshi) Sekigu-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Soccer.com Inc. chief executive officer Nobuyuki Yamagata, third left, joins CNMI government officials and sports leaders and two guests in the groundbreaking ceremony for the CNMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Wednesday.